

12-Acre Lake Top Priority —

Ceremony To Open Construction

Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)
SEP 5 1980

Ceremonies marking the beginning of work on Vigo County's new multipurpose park will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday at the park site in the northeast part of the county.

Development of the 12-acre lake is the first priority of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board. White Excavating has been awarded a \$20,000 contract to dredge three fingers of the lake to a depth of five or six feet, using the fill to widen existing roads.

Keith Ruble, county park superintendent, and Chet Burkeybyle, assistant superintendent, will welcome local officials at the ceremonies. Circuit Court Judge Hugh D. Mc-

Quillan and County Council President Paul Newton will give brief speeches at the park site.

Money to buy the land came from the park department's non-reverting capital fund and a matching \$150,000 federal grant administered through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Some federal funds also are available for development of outdoor recreational facilities, but such services as utilities must be provided locally.

Acquisition of the property occurred after a near 10-year search for a suitable site for a multipurpose park.

The park board has been discussing priorities for the various phases of development for several months. The first phase includes work on the dam.

Ruble said the lake will take at least three years for fish to grow to sufficient size for fishing. The lake will be stocked in October with bluegills, channel catfish, largemouth bass and crappies.

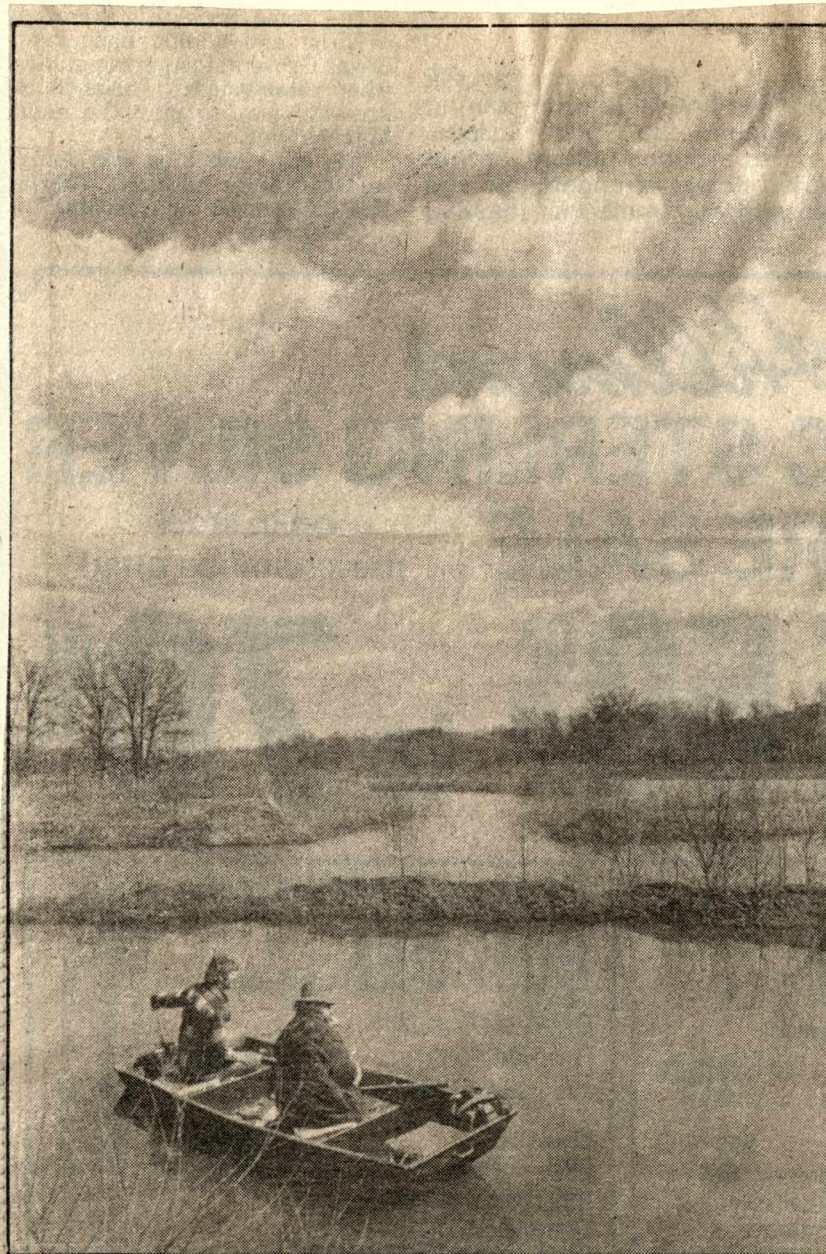
During the winter, work will continue to remove brush for camping and picnic areas.

Other features at the lake will be a boat launch, swimming facilities and a special area where handicapped persons may fish.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE



Fisherman's paradise: Popular site at Hawthorn.

New county park fisherman's delight

APR 21 1985

By Dave Delaney
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

If you enjoy the outdoors, you'll probably like Hawthorn Park.

The 232-acre Vigo County park — about two miles east of Terre Haute on Hanker Road — is scheduled to open at 2 p.m. May 24, with Mayor P. Pete Chalos and other local dignitaries participating in ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

The \$800,000 park, which is still under construction, is open now for fishing, hiking, picnicking and boating.

The park offers two lakes, 74 campsites, covered shelters, four miles of hiking trails, three playgrounds, a concession stand/bathhouse complex, boat ramp, swimming beach and a nature observatory platform.

Vigo County Park and Recreation Department superintendent Keith Ruble said the lakes — one is 61 acres and the other is 18 acres — will offer some of the best fishing in the area.

"There ought to be trophy bass come out of here," said Ruble, while piloting an aluminum fishing boat through the J.I. Case Wetland Wildlife Area, one of the lakes. "This ought to be a fisherman's paradise," said Ruble, who speculates that three-pound bass are in the lakes now.

The state Department of Natural Resources will put 18,000 fingerlings into the wildlife area in June or July, he said.

Only boats with trolling motors will be allowed on the fishing lake.

Burns Lake, the 18-acre body of water, is named after long-time park board member Fox Burns. The grass extends to the water's edge and tons of sand were hauled in for a beach for swimmers. The county park system's only cableslope has been built here.

The brown concession building has wide, wooden decking on three sides, with seating for picnickers. Park visitors can buy pizza, hot dogs, ice cream, soda pop and other goodies at the concession stand which has seven skylights. A modern dock with slips for 10 boats is nearby.

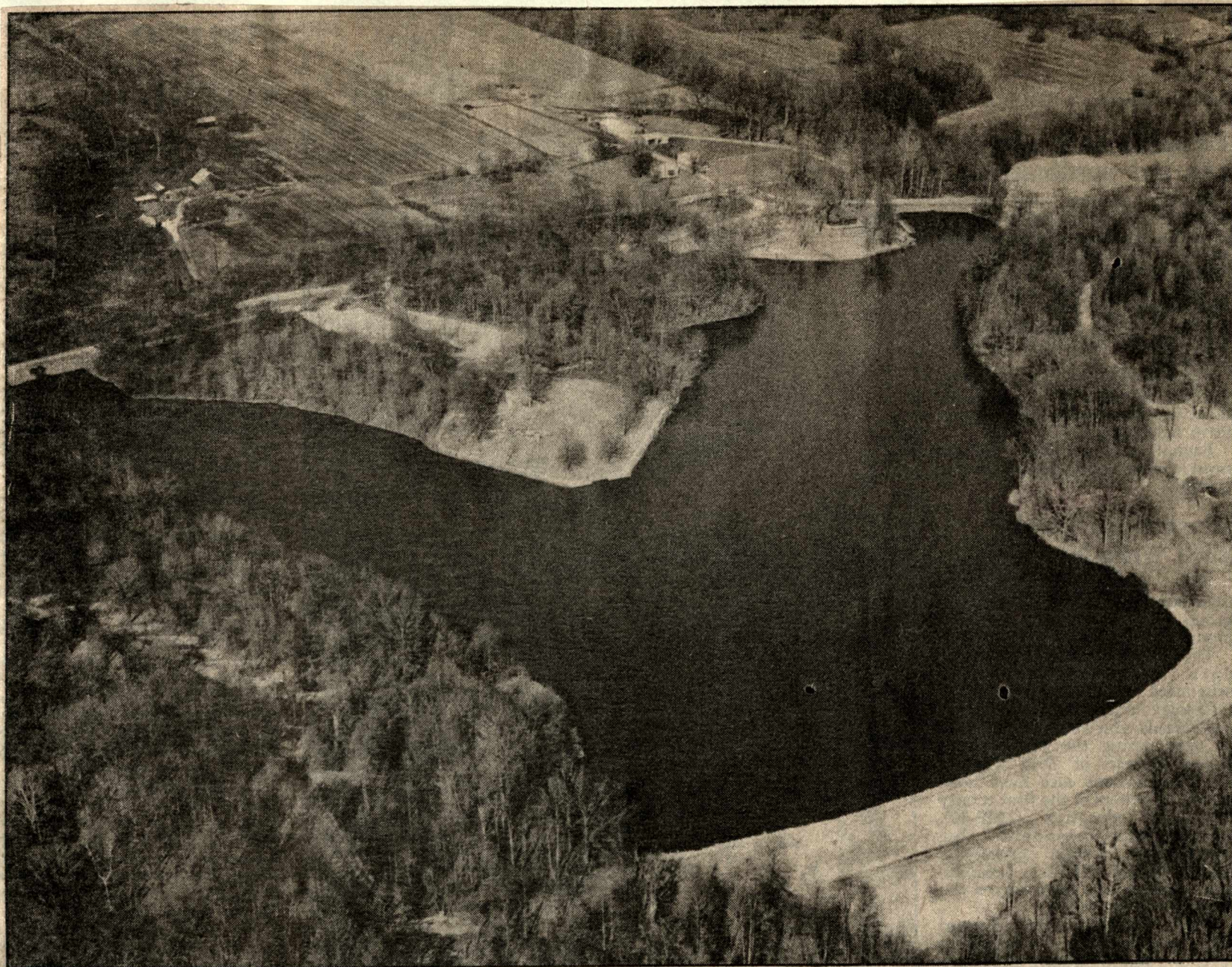
The 74 campsites, with electrical supply, are in a woodsy part of the park. One table, grill and water source will be part of every campsite. The camping area also has a dump station for trailers. The campground has two comfort stations, complete with hot showers.

"We'll also have some cabins to rent," said Ruble. Camping will be \$4 a night and cabin rental will be \$6 to \$8 a night.

Ruble said the observation tower will be built with \$2,000 donated by the Terre Haute Lions Club. "It should be an educational treat for area schoolchildren," said Ruble. Reservations to use the three covered shelters are now being accepted. Hawthorn Park also has three playgrounds for youngsters and canoes, paddle boats and rowboats can be rented. Cement sidewalks were installed at various sites to insure access for handicapped persons.

For more information, contact the park department at 238-8391 or 238-8392.

Parks + Recreation (VC)



Hawthorn Park: Overhead view of new Vigo County facility.

Vigo co. Recreation
TH. State 1/31/68.
**Area North Of Seelyville
Under Study As Park Site**

By DAVE NEESE
Star Staff Writer

A recreation planner with a Terre Haute architectural concern will study the feasibility of developing a park alongside of a proposed 770-acre lake north of Seelyville, the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department said Tuesday.

Richard D. Norris, superintendent of the department, said the study will be made by Ewing Miller Associates, Inc. The cost of the study is less than \$2,500, he said.

The goal is to determine whether camping, boating, hiking and other recreation facilities can be developed around the lake, which is proposed under the Otter Creek Watershed Project.

+ + +

The lake itself is only in early planning stages and will be the subject of a feasibility study by the Soil Conservation Service.

The two studies would be sent to Congress as a step toward

applying for federal funds, which might be as much as 50 per cent under the Small Watershed Act, Norris said. The act provides funds for multi-purpose watershed programs designed to meet recreation and water-control needs. State funds might be available, too, Norris said.

The local financial share would be about 25 or 30 per cent, he said.

The 770-acre lake would be constructed in an area about a mile north of Seelyville. It would be roughly bounded by Davis Road on the north, Scott Burgan Road and U.S. 40 on the south, the Clay County line on the east and Creal Road on the West.

+ + +

The Otter Creek Watershed Project comprises 80,000 acres in Vigo, Clay and Parke Counties. The lake has been proposed by watershed project sponsors as a possible answer to flood-control and water-supply problems.

The Park and Recreation Department has now proposed that

the lake might be, in addition, an answer to recreation problems.

The department has called for the creation of four major county parks, ranging from 100 to 600 acres each, to meet requirements of projected population growth for the Terre Haute area. (The National Planning Association of Washington, D.C., has projected a 1975 area population of 215,000.)

Possible means of financing park development, other than through local taxes and bond issues, include state cigarette tax funds, federal Land and Water Conservation Funds, federal "Open Space" funds (under the Housing Act of 1961) and federal Small Watershed Act funds.

Minor Fire Damages Chesty Chips Plant

Fire caused by an over-heated cooker caused an estimated \$1,100 damage at Chesty Foods, 500 S. 9th St., about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Firemen estimated \$1,000 loss to contents of the building and \$100 to the structure.

Pumpers 2, 4, 5, the snorkel unit and Assist. Fire Chief Robert Long answered the alarm.

Seelyville Park Would Aid Area Economy, Tuttle Says

By CARL BENDER

Tribune Staff Writer

A park and recreation area, which would enable 350,000 people to use the facility every year, could well become the most important economic development in the county in recent years.

Richard Tuttle of Ewing Miller Associates, Inc., said the proposed Seelyville Park, which would lie to the north of the

Vigo County town, could become an important factor in attracting new firms to the area, since recreation is fast becoming an important part of everyone's every day life.

Tuttle, who addressed the luncheon meeting of the Noon Optimist Club Wednesday, outlined the proposed park, noting that with its natural features, little cost would be incurred in grading and leveling of areas for parking and other such re-

lated facilities.

A natural wooded and hilly area to the northwest of the park is seemingly ideal for hiking and bridle trails, while a stretch of level ground would make an ideal beach area along the north shore of the proposed lake.

There are also natural areas for parking, with only bumps to be smoothed over, as most of the ground in the areas for parking and overnight trailer camping is quite level.

The park encompasses 1,200 acres and is currently the biggest project under consideration in the state.

The lake itself would be about 725 acres, with 425 of those lying within the area of the park. The other 300 acres would lie outside the area, but the waters would be controlled to help prevent pollution of the recreational area.

One of the streams which will contribute to the lake is Sulphur Creek and as its name implies, it is polluted with sulphur seeping from the surrounding countryside.

However, Sulphur Creek will be of little contributory value.

Continued on Page 8, Column 3

not to obstruct swimmers along the north shore, but boats will be allowed to move through the beach area to reach fishing grounds near the eastern part of the north branch of the lake.

Parking facilities will be located along the north edge of the beach area, with a boat ramp near the dam. Patrons will enter at a gate at the northwest edge for boating, swimming, hiking, riding and trailer parking.

Those who will stay overnight in trailers will do so along the south shore of the lake, with electrical and sewer facilities available. Tuttle said the proposed Seelyville sewer is a key part in the park project, as pollution by sewage will have to be avoided.

Those who wish to camp overnight and for longer periods in tents will be doing so on a peninsula at the east edge of the park.

But all is not that easy in a time of tight money.

Tuttle sounded an optimistic note, however, in saying the next six months could well determine the whole project. He voiced his optimism that the grounds the park would not be used just for conservation and flood control, but that it would, indeed, be a boon to recreation in the area.

Continued From Page One.

and the county is trying to find ways of combating the flow of sulphur into the lake as much as possible.

The lake would be about 40 feet at its deepest point and about three-fourths of a mile at its widest strip. That area lies close to the dam at the western end and will be used primarily for water skiing.

Speedboats would be confined to that area of the lake, so as

O. C. Watershed Project Plans Topic of Meet

By JACK HUGHES
Tribune Staff Writer

Recreation elements of the proposed Otter Creek Watershed Project will be outlined for members of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board Advisory Council at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Meadows Center hospitality room.

Park Board President Jack Wood, County Recreation Department Superintendent Richard Norris and others will participate in the presentation at the first meeting of the newly reorganized advisory body.

Dick Tuttle of Ewing Miller Associates, Inc., architects, will describe the physical layout of the area due north of Seelyville which is the subject of the watershed-recreation program along the eastern part of the creek.

Lake Proposed

The proposed project would provide a large lake just south of Ehrmandale, stretching to the east and west, in a configuration which offers perhaps the best opportunity for development in the county, according to Norris.

Norris advises that preliminary studies indicate excellent potential for recreation. He also has noted that the manner in which the project is being approached, with federal recreation and watershed money an-

Continued on Page 2, Col. 3.

ticipated, will result in much less direct cost to local taxpayers than if the proposal were solely a locally financed recreation project.

Projected park plans call for swimming, boating and fishing, in addition to picnic and camping areas as well as a trailer camp-site for vacationers.

35-Member Council

The newly reorganized advisory council consists of 35 members which, Wood reports, reflect a cross-section of the community, both with regard to geography and personal interests.

Members include E. J. Acree, Charles Blanford, Benjamin Blumberg, Miss Lulu Chickadaunce, Mrs. Dorothy Clark, Dr. Don Conner Sr., Keith Cornelissen, J. W. Dennis, Lloyd Deutsch, Donas Dischinger, Don E. Foltz, Nelson Eddy, Mrs. Marie Fox, Ronald Hall, Burch Harlan, Mrs. Mary Hutchinson, Don Inman and Mrs. Alice Kieweg.

Also, Mrs. Samuel Klaus, Lawrence Leach, Mrs. Edward Malooley, Dr. Robert Meyne, Lloyd Mills, Mrs. Ben Moulton, W. E. Ouwenel, Vernie G. Potter, Charles H. Ray, James Richard, L. E. Sawyer, Fred Schwartz, D. Omer Seamon, J. Morton Swango, Kay Thomson and Msgr. Herbert F. Winterhalter.

T MAR 16 1972

700-Acre Park Plans Told At Conservancy Hearing

T MAR 16 1972

By MARY ANNE PIERCE
Tribune Staff Writer

"The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board will secure at least 700 acres north of Seelyville for a park and lake whether the Otter Creek Conservancy District plan is approved or not."

This was the statement made by David Beres, director of the department, as he testified before Indiana Department of Natural Resources commissioners, Wednesday. The commissioners were in Terre Haute for a public hearing on establishment of the district.

The hearing drew about 150 persons to the courtroom in City Hall. Opposition appeared to be directed against two points of the conservancy district plan — cost in tax dollars and the proposed 1,334 acre lake and park north of Seelyville.

Beres, who was one of several persons called by Attorney Thomas Spelman to testify in favor of the district, said a lake

and a park in the northeastern section of the county is part of a 1987 master park and recreation plan.

Asks for 2-Year Delay

W. A. Trinler, Indiana State University professor, who resides in the area and has led a group of opponents to the plan, called on the commissioners to delay approval for two years.

"I respectfully petition the court to deny establishment of this conservancy district for a period of two years, during which time this project can be further studied. If at the end of that period, there is continued

interest in forming such a district, then a decision should be reached by the most democratic means possible—a voter referendum," Trinler said in a written statement.

John Hildebrand, chairman of the hearing board, found it necessary throughout the meeting to remind the audience of the purpose of the hearing.

"We are here not to test the popularity of establishing this conservancy district, he admonished the vocal crowd, "nor are we here to determine the tax consequences of its establishment. Our purpose is to collect information from all views and prepare a technical report for submission to the court for final determination."

Beres said the park and lake could be larger and serve more people if the watershed district is approved. According to him, the project will cost approximately \$1.9 million. He estimated between \$243,000 and

Continued On Page 10, Col. 1.

10 THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUTE

Park Plans

Continued From Page One.

\$600,000 in annual income would be realized from the recreational area if the district is approved. The income, according to his figures, would be adequate to cover yearly maintenance, plus debts incurred in its development.

He disputed rumors that 60 houses will be taken by plan. He said soil conservation studies have shown only seven to ten houses will be removed.

During a question and answer segment, Trinler asked why an environmental impact had not been completed before the preliminary investigation report was made. He was assured by Hildebrand that "the state won't approve the final plan until we have an environmental impact study."

Trinler was joined by James Mason, RR 1, West Terre Haute, representing the National Audubon Society; John O. Whitaker, Terre Haute and Marion Jackson, Dennison, Ill., in questions concerning ecological factors.

Impact Statement

The impact statement is required but the lack of the statement at the present does not bar the establishment of the conservancy district. A final plan cannot be approved until the impact study is prepared and approved by the Department of Natural Resources, according to the 1970 Environmental Protection Act.

The three-hour hearing opened with an hour-long presentation by Doug Peet, planning party leader with the Watershed Planning Division of the Soil Conservation Service. With the use of charts and maps, Peet outlined for commissioners information found in the Otter Creek preliminary investigation report. "This PI is not a final plan . . . it was prepared to show the economic and engineering feasibility . . . and indicates the general type of structures needed . . . it can be changed . . . it is a flexible instrument showing the proper area, the true drainage area."

According to him, the area covers 127 square miles in Clay, Parke and Vigo Counties. Vigo's portion covers 60.7 square miles; Clay, 50.6 square miles and 15.4 in Parke County.

Damage Losses

He presented figures showing losses from damage due to erosion and flooding. According to him, the area is primarily agricultural, although developing into an urban area, as well. Seventy per cent of the residents have an off-farm income and most are tenant-owners.

Total cost of the watershed, his figures showed, would be \$5,854,000. Of that amount, structures would cost \$4,912,000 and land treatment \$942,000. Federal money through Public Law 566 would provide \$2,114,000, while the remaining \$3,739,400 would be through "other costs." Benefit-cost ratio, Peet estimated, would be 1.8 to 1 or \$1.80 realized for every dollar spent.

Members of the audience questioned if "other costs" meant taxes. Peet responded that it could mean grants from other agencies. "Some Department of Housing and Urban Development, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and cigarette tax funds could be available, according to one source, along with grants from other agencies."

The report compiled by commissioners following Wednesday's meeting will be submitted to Vigo Circuit Judge C. Joseph Anderson, who must rule on the establishment of the district. If he renders a favorable ruling, further public hearings will be conducted before the final watershed plan is approved.

In addition to Hildebrand, the Department of Natural Resources was represented by Kenneth Harris, who also works jointly with Purdue University Agricultural and Extension Service.

Statements in favor of the district were offered by Wayne Livengood, RR 52, chairman of the Otter Creek Steering Committee; Mary Farr Fontanet, secretary of the committee; Vern Montgomery, 6231 Clinton Rd.; Dale Hardesty, RR 2, Rosedale.

Organizations lending support to the district were the Vigo County Commissioners, the Vigo County Area Planning Department, the Seelyville Town Board, the West Central Indiana Economic Development District and Sycamore Trail Resources and Conservation and Development Area.

Community Affairs File

New park funding provided in grant

DEC 5 1978

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department has received tentative approval for a \$150,000 federal grant to be used toward purchase of a park site in the northeast part of the county, Superintendent Keith Ruble confirmed Tuesday.

The proposal is one of 42 submitted

by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to the U. S. Department of the Interior's Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for final action.

Funding would come on a 50/50 matching basis through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Ruble declined to discuss details until federal approval is assured. That could come in January or February, he said. The county park board is in the process of negotiating for a site.

The local matching money would come from the park department's non-reverting capital fund.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a 50/50 matching federal assistance program administered through the Department of Natural Resources and local park and recreation agencies for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites.

Since the federally-assisted program began in 1965, Indiana and 121 local units of government have received \$47 million for park projects.

About \$3.9 million was available through the Land and Water Conservation Fund this year, according to Joseph D. Cloud, director of Indiana DNR and liaison officer for the program.

Requests from local park board totaled more than \$5 million, Cloud said. Eligible applications were rated using a distribution formula.

The city of Terre Haute is in line for a \$238,550 matching grant for improvement and expansion of facilities at Spencer F. Ball Field and the city of Brazil expects a \$200,000 grant for work at Forest Park.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Mrs. Farr suggests alternate park site

Sp JUN 16 1979

Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co)

Mrs. Mary Farr, owner of property in Fontanet that the Vigo County Park Board has voted to purchase through condemnation proceedings, says she has found another parcel that would be ideal for the department's purposes.

"It's in Coal Bluff, not a mile from their proposed site. It's 175 acres and is \$450 an acre. There are roads, there's a small lake, and there's a mined area that could be turned into a lake just like mine," Farr told The Spectator.

The Park Department's master plan calls for a multi-purpose recreational facility in the northern portion of the county. A \$150,000 federal grant has been received for that purpose, which will be used with \$130,000 local funds for the proposed 140 acre facility.

The Park Board has approved a facility made up of a 100-acre tract belonging to Max Gibson and another 40 acres belonging to Farr. Gibson is willing to sell his land to the county at a below-market price of \$55,000, according to board president Max Miller. Miller says the state computed that the land is really worth another \$20,000, which is why the federal grant is not being matched by the usual 50 percent.

But Farr doesn't want to sell her property. After one meeting between several board members, their special attorney, James McDonald, and Farr, the board voted to go ahead with its plans despite Farr's opposition. "Now it's in the attorney's hands," Keith Ruble, park superintendent, said. "After Mrs. Farr is notified by the attorney, there will be 30 days for negotiating," he added. "We would prefer to work it out that way."

Farr, too, would like to avoid a court battle, but she is preparing herself, nevertheless, in case that's necessary. She has employed local attorney Hansford Mann, she has prepared a list of errors the park department made in its federal grant application, she has talked to neighbor Gibson about the matter, she has found an alternate location for officials and taken aerial pictures of it. Her children are gathering signatures on a petition opposing the eminent domain action.

"I came to town this weekend to meet with Susan McCarthy and John Etling of the Park Board, and McDonald and Ruble to discuss the matter," Farr said Saturday. "But the lawyer couldn't meet, and they

didn't let me know until I got here," she added.

Growing out of county condemnation plans, a side controversy is brewing. Farr says surveyors came on her property without notification and cut down trees with a chain saw during their work. And she has pictures to prove it, she adds. Miller and Ruble say the surveyors were not on her property.

Gibson said county officials came to see him about a year and a half ago and explained what they'd like to do about a north park. He agreed to go along with their plans at that time. "But I hate to see Mrs. Farr's land condemned," Gibson said last week. "I know the county needs the park, but I have mixed feelings about it."

Gibson added that if everything was

equal, he would prefer not to sell his property. "I'll lose a lot of money on it," he said.

Meanwhile, Farr is beginning to regret her work some years ago on the Otter Creek Watershed project. "I worked on that because of the flood control aspects. Otter Creek cuts my property in half, and I lost a \$10,000 bridge through flooding," she said. "But I was told then that no families were being displaced by the project, and now I wonder if that was accurate. Because, they say none will be displaced by this project, but that's not true. Both my son and daughter live on this land, that has been in my family for generations."

Park officials say they have no plans for acquiring the houses; only the lake is tabbed for purchase.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

T APR 24 1979

Parks & Recreation
Vigo Co

Park property purchase delayed

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board, meeting Monday in its monthly session, put acquisition of property for a \$300,000 northeast county park on "hold," pending federal approval of the proposed site.

County Park and Recreation Superintendent Keith Ruble reported the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has given clearance for the project, but that federal officials have not completed their review yet.

The county park department hopes to establish a multi-purpose recreation facility in the northern part of the county. A \$150,000 federal grant plus \$130,000 from the park department's non-reverting capital fund will finance the project.

The proposed site includes a 100-acre tract owned by Max Gibson, which he reportedly is willing to sell at a below-market-value price of \$55,000, and another 40-acre tract containing a lake, owned by Mary Farr.

Park board members Burch Harlan and Fox Burns met with Mrs. Farr recently to discuss purchasing the property. Other members of the board said Monday they would tour the area. James O. McDonald is the park board's special attorney in the matter.

The Vigo County Council has already approved \$130,000 from the non-reverting capital fund toward purchase of the park site but has urged the park board to avoid using the right of eminent domain in obtaining any land.

Acting on other matters, the board gave approval for a Hovercraft rally at Fowler Park the second weekend in October, contingent upon obtaining liability insurance during the two-day special event.

The board also adopted a series of special event regulations and restrictions governing special events on the department's lakes, such as the Hovercraft rally.

Because the number of persons swimming at Prairie Creek Park varies drastically during the summer, the board authorized Ruble to assign other duties to the lifeguards at the park when no swimmers are in the water.

Susan McCarthy conducted the Monday meeting in the absence of board president Max G. Miller. Attending were Harlan, Burns, John Etling and John William Thompson.

The park board meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 4 p.m. at the American Red Cross building.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Steps taken for new Vigo park

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

T MAY 30 1979

Parks and Recreation (Vigo Co.)

warning at the Tuesday meeting.

The Park Board's decision to proceed with plans for a northeast park drew a round of applause from about 40 Fontanet residents who were also present. Several spoke of the need for recreational facilities in the area.

Park Board president Max G. Miller gave the audience a chance to ask questions about the proposed park at the beginning of the meeting. Ruble then explained the work that has gone into location of a suitable northeast park over the past five years.

Establishment of a multipurpose park in the north part of the county has been a high priority item for more than 10 years, but efforts to acquire the necessary land have not been successful, Ruble noted.

"To our knowledge, there are no alternative sites available," he said.

Board members agreed they had taken a positive step for all people in northeast Vigo County when they made the decision to proceed.

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board voted unanimously Tuesday to proceed with plans to establish a multipurpose park in northeastern Vigo County, using the right of eminent domain if necessary to acquire approximately 60 acres of the land.

The proposed site, near Fontanet, includes a 100-acre tract (the old DuPont powder mill plant) owned by Max Gibson, and about 60 acres containing a lake, owned by Mary Farr, her daughter and son-in-law.

Gibson reportedly is willing to sell at a below-market-value price of \$55,000. Mrs. Farr has been unwilling to negotiate or give the park board a chance to make an offer, County Park Superintendent Keith Ruble noted during the meeting Tuesday.

The park project will cost about \$300,000, with half of the funding from a federal grant and half from the Park Department's non-reverting capital

Attorney James O. McDonald is special counsel for the Park Board in the acquisition of the properties. In explaining procedures necessary to acquire the Nevins Township properties by condemnation, McDonald noted that the state statute "puts public agencies' feet to the fire."

He emphasized that the Park Department has the right of eminent domain to condemn for public use. Notice must be served 30 days before any suit is filed, he said. The condemnation proceedings involve only the lake and not the houses owned by Mrs. Farr and her family.

The next step is to survey and appraise the properties, McDonald explained, so that an offer can be made to Mrs. Farr. The park board has the right to make the survey and appraisal, and persons doing this work are not considered to be trespassing, McDonald stressed.

Mrs. Farr reportedly told the Vigo County Council last week that she would shoot any trespassers, and her son, Kim Roby, repeated the

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

SP APR 14 1979

COUNTY PARK BOARD IS NEGOTIATING FOR LAKE

Three members of the Vigo County Park Board, Max Miller, Ruel Burns and Burch Harlan, met with their special attorney, James McDonald, and Mrs. Mary Farr Saturday morning to discuss purchasing the Farr property.

The Park Department plans to establish a multi-purpose recreation facility in the northern portion of the county with a \$150,000 federal grant matched with \$130,000 local funds. Under consideration for the Fontanet park is a 100-acre tract belonging to Max Gibson, which he is willing to sell at a below-market-value cost of \$55,000, and another 40 acre tract containing a lake that belongs to Mrs. Farr.

"I do not want to sell my property," Farr told The Spectator. "I asked the board to come out and tramp over my land with me and see it for themselves. My lake would not be suitable for public use. I also told them about some vacant property containing two ponds that could be joined together to form a lake; it is situated behind the Gibson land. The board members didn't take me up on the invitation," she added.

Mrs. Farr did not take an attorney to the meeting last week, she said, because she has had a long and close association with the park department through the years. "I thought it was unnecessary to get into a legal battle. I preferred just to talk informally with officials about the matter.

"Board members asked me if I would be willing to swap my north property for a similar parcel in another location. I just couldn't respond to that sort of vague offer. But I'm glad we met and feel the session went okay," she noted.

"I understand that now the whole board will meet and discuss the facts. Then they'll be back in touch with me," she said.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

County considering North Vigo location

By Susan Crittenden

In order to comply with needs set forth in its master plan, the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department is now planning to establish a multi-purpose facility in the northern sector of Vigo County. The federal government will provide \$150,000 under terms of a matching grant program, while \$130,000 of local money will be spent from a special nonreverting park department fund.

Keith Ruble, superintendent of parks, and Max Miller, chairman of the department's board, explained details at two recent county council meetings. Plans call for the park to consist of about 140 acres, including a 30-acre lake that will be used for swimming and fishing. A portion of the land under consideration contains so-called "virgin forest." The growth is about 50 years old, actually, and came after an explosion some years ago in the Fontanet area devastated much of the nearby property.

Vigo County needs a recreational area in the north and an added side benefit could result to the surrounding depressed rural countryside. About a 100 acre tract of the property being considered belongs to Max Gibson. He recently purchased that land and more from DuPont, and is willing to sell the Park Department what it wants at a below-market-value cost. Miller explained that Gibson will sell his land to the department for about \$55,000, and the state has computed that it's worth an added \$20,000. That is why the federal grant approved for the project is being matched with less than the required 50 percent -- the government counts Gibson's donation of \$20,000 as part of the local matching share.

Another 40 acres adjoining the Gibson property is owned by Mary Farr. That is the land containing the lake, which is an integral requirement of the plan.

As of late last week, the Park Department has not discussed purchase of the Farr property with its owner. There have, however, been indications that she may not wish to

sell the lake, and certainly not at the \$32,500 price that has been mentioned.

In December the Park Department employed a special attorney, James McDonald, to represent the board in land acquisition for the new park. Generally board legal matters are handled by the regular county attorney, who is employed on a contract-basis by the commissioners.

While Miller says the Park Board has not discussed condemning the Farr property and taking it by eminent domain, the matter has been mentioned by county councilmen and by McDonald.

In December, McDonald wrote to Mrs. Farr to arrange a meeting. In the letter he said that he had been hired to assist in acquiring her real estate for the department and wanted to meet with her prior to filing a condemnation suit, which would ultimately be necessary if terms could not be agreed upon. A meeting date was later set, but had to be cancelled due to winter weather.

Miller said last week that he talked to McDonald about meeting informally with Mrs. Farr, and that was the course he preferred. However McDonald told Miller that could not be done. The lawyer said all Mrs. Farr's rights had to be explained to her before discussion in case the suit went to condemnation. Miller said McDonald likened the situation to the way policemen must comply with the Miranda decision and read rights to suspects.

Mrs. Farr explained to The Spectator that last summer she told several people she was not interested in selling her lake property, which consists of about 70 acres. While she receives queries each year about selling the land, she has not had any offer from the Park Department, she said.

Three families now live on her property and use the lake for their water supply. She has future plans for developing the acreage, she said, and pointed out, "there are all kinds of strip pits in that neighborhood. I worked on the Otter Creek Watershed project, which was defeated in court, and I know the area. I'd be glad to help the officials find other lakes."

"If we are to follow the master plan, we must go north," Miller said last week. "It's timely, and this is an ideal location. The virgin timber is a special added bonus; and it's ideal. We'll be able to save this valuable stand."

REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has set the total project cost for the new north park at \$300,000. This sum should cover both acquisition and development. However, Miller noted that the project is so vital that the Park Department might decide to spend more than usual on acquisition and delay some development costs.

Miller has worked closely with county councilmen during the planning stages of a north park, he said. The county needs the recreation facility, and both Ruble and Miller hope it can become reality without undue delay. In addition to Miller, other members of the Park Board are Ruel Fox Burns, John Etling, Burch Harlan, Susan McCarthy and Bill Thompson.

Sketch of Park Plan

24 acres in the north end of the county, near the town of...



Board OKs budget, delays park decision

Community Affairs

T JUL 24 1979

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board, at its regular monthly meeting Monday afternoon, approved the 1980 proposed budget of \$239,939, but tabled further discussion on plans to acquire land for a northeast county park until the August meeting.

Keith Ruble, park superintendent, explained that the 1980 budget is only slightly higher than the 1979 budget. Board members raised several questions about higher utility costs.

Plans for a northeast county park had been put "on hold" last month by the park board following discussion with owners of property which the department has been seeking to acquire. The proposed site includes a 100-acre tract (the old DuPont powder mill plant) owned by Max Gibson and about 60 acres of lake property owned by Mary Farr and her family.

The total project is estimated to cost \$300,000, with half of the funding from a federal grant and the other half from the department's non-re-

verting capital fund. The Vigo County Council approved the local share several months ago, but urged the park board not to use condemnation proceedings in acquiring the land.

Earlier, Gibson had indicated he would be willing to sell the 100 acres at a below-market price of \$55,000. However, Chet Burkeybyle, assistant park superintendent, reported to the board Monday that Gibson, in a telephone call to Burkeybyle, said he was withdrawing his offer. Mrs. Farr has reported she does not wish to sell her property and will fight condemnation proceedings.

If an alternate site is found, another grant application will have to be prepared, according to Ruble.

Board Treasurer John William Thompson conducted the meeting in the absence of Max Miller, president, and Susan McCarthy, vice president. Others attending were John Etling and Fox Burns. Burch Harlan was not present.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Park board meeting *Park & Recreation (Vigo Co)* results in stand-off

T JUN 26 1979

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

A Monday afternoon meeting resulted in a stand-off between the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board and owners of property which the park department wants to acquire for a county park near Fontanet.

Last month, the county park board voted to proceed with plans to establish a multipurpose park in northeastern Vigo County, using the right of eminent domain if necessary to acquire a 60-acre tract containing a lake, owned by Mary Farr and her two children, Terry Jenkins and Kim Roby.

The proposed site includes a 100-acre tract (the old DuPont powder mill plant) owned by Max Gibson, which he reportedly is willing to sell at a below-market price of \$55,000.

The park department is seeking to acquire only the lake property, not the houses owned by the Farr family, Superintendent Keith Ruble stressed.

The park project will cost an estimated \$300,000, with half of the fund-

ing from a federal grant and half from the park department's non-reverting capital fund.

The board directed Ruble to respond to a lengthy list of questions presented by Ms. Farr at the next board meeting. These included several concerning the application for the federal grant.

Ms. Farr suggested the board consider an alternate site in nearby Coal Bluff, consisting of about 175 acres for \$450 per acre.

"It has roads and three small ponds," she said.

Following that discussion, the board instructed Ruble to determine if the money already allocated for the project can be used toward another project in the northeast part of the county, should the alternate site be suitable.

An executive session of the six-member park board had been scheduled before the regular 4 p.m. session, but did not take place, according to Max Miller, park board president.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

Parks & Recreation
**Security
at parks
gets action**
Community Affairs File
15 JAN 31 1985

The Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department may beef up security at its three parks.

"We had a break-in at Hawthorn Park several weeks ago," Keith Ruble, park superintendent, told the park board at its monthly meeting earlier this week. Ruble said among items taken was a \$1,100 outboard motor.

The board discussed the possibility of installing a security system that would include automatic dialing to law-enforcement agencies when it was activated.

Because costs would range between \$3,000 and \$6,000 per year for such equipment, board president Jack Ennis suggested locks and horns might be more cost-effective.

In other business, the board:

- Discussed hiring someone to run the concession at Hawthorn Park. Although details have not been worked out, the board is expected to take about 15 percent of the total gross income at Hawthorn Park and half the fees for boat rentals. "This isn't going to be a money-maker for the county," said Ennis. "However, it should be for the concessionnaire."

- Heard assistant park superintendent Jana Gold discuss buying khaki shirts and caps for all park personal along with blue jeans. The 64 uniforms cost nearly \$900 and will come with worker names and Vigo County Park lettering.

- Elected officers for the new year. The current slate of officers was re-elected and include Ennis as president and Max Miller as vice president.

HAWTHORN PARK

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Poe keeping close eye on new park

T's OCT 11 1984

Parks & Recreation (W.V.)

By Dave Delaney
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Hawthorn Park, Vigo County's third park, is now officially open with Dick Poe as foreman and custodian.

"Dick will be there to help people," said county park supervisor Keith Ruble of the 205-acre complex, now open primarily for fishing and hiking. "People are getting good catches of redear, sunfish and bluegills."

Poe has been overseeing the considerable amount of construction going on at the park which includes 61-acre J. I. Case Wetland Wildlife area. Much of that work has been involved with clearing out campsites.

"I think the people who visit here are going to really like the wildlife area, camping sites and fishing," said Poe, a retiree out of Ethyl Visqueen where he spent 33 years in the maintenance department.

Poe said other park attractions include a wooden sidewalk near one lake on which the handicapped can fish from benches. "We also have quite a few miles of trails in the park," he said.

The stop-log structure at the wildlife area is now in place and will be the device that will retain water from this winter and spring to create the 61-acre wetland.

Poe will eventually live at the park, while a couple will be hired



DICK POE
Helping people at Hawthorn

to help oversee the new park and collect camping fees, Ruble said. Another person will be put on the payroll for the warm-weather months to help with night-time security.

Ruble said the park will close any time rain makes for hazardous driving conditions. The park will remain open during the winter for ice-fishing.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Ts SEP 26 1984

Parks and Recreation (V.C.)

Hawthorn opens gates Saturday

Wildlife area covers 61 acres

Community Affairs File

Hawthorn Park is finally going to open.

"We're real excited about this project," said Vigo County Parks and Recreation Superintendent Keith Ruble of the county's third park, slated to open its gates Saturday. The park covers 205 acres, with the J.I. Case Wetland Wildlife Area that'll take up 61 of those acres. Park officials had changed the park opening date several times this fall.

Fishing and hiking open Saturday, with swimming being an option next spring. The park entrance is on Maple Avenue east of Terre Haute.

"Case donated \$250,000 worth of service with their test equipment at the park," said Ruble. He said the county also appropriated \$36,000 of local tax money to complete the project. The local Lions Club kicked in \$2,000 to build an observation deck, he added.

"What's unique about this park is that it'll have eight acres of flooded woods and long water-filled trenches for fish," Ruble said.



Tribune-Star/Bonnie Jeffery

Earth hog: Ralph Klein moves dirt in preparation for county's newest park's opening

Anglers will be able to do their thing in boats among those trees.

The lake also will have a log structure at one end to lower and raise the water level. Ruble said bald cypress trees and pines will be

planted in the area in the spring.

Ruble also expressed gratitude to the Soil and Water Conservation Services for its help in the project. Jack Dennis donated \$3,000 worth of dirt-moving work at the site,

Ruble said.

Park hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and an attendant will be on duty. Ruble reminded anglers to obey the state's 14-inch bass fishing law or face arrest and a fine.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

1 s AUG 15 1984

Parks & Recreation (V.C.) Community Affairs File

Hawthorn Park gearing for opening

Hawthorn Park will soon be open to area residents. Located behind Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on old Maple Avenue, the park will cover 232 acres, 61 of which will be a unique wetland wildlife area.

"Hopefully we'll open it in September for fishing," said Keith Ruble, Vigo County Park and Recreation superintendent. Fishing will be done in 18-acre Lake Burns, named after Ruel Fox Burns, one of the original members of the county park board.

Bulldozers and earth-moving equipment are now at the site pushing 30,000 yards of earth to build a levy for fishing and wildlife observation. "We think this will have a great educational benefit," said Ruble. "We expect to have migrating ducks and geese here."

He said a local Lions Club has donated \$2,000 to build an observation tower in the wildlife area.

The park will feature a large concession stand, said Ruble, and restrooms complete with showers.

Water and electricity will be available at 81 modern campsites. People can also pitch tents if they want, he added.

"We'll be renting canoes, rowboats and maybe paddle boats," continued Ruble, who said sand will be brought in for a good-sized bathing beach. The park will have plenty of playground apparatus for youngsters, including a large swing which will dump the person in the water. He said there will be three creative play areas.

The superintendent said there

will be a large area for softball games and soccer contests; six miles of hiking trails will meander through thick woods.

"Everything will be fully accessible," said Ruble. The handicapped will be able to take full advantage of the facilities.

"We may put a boardwalk by the wildlife area so people can observe aquatic life," Ruble said. He expects the site to be used by students at the elementary, high-school and college levels.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Parks + Recreation WC

Improvements

OK'd for park

T s NOV 1 5 1983

Hawthorn Park, the county's newest park, is in store for \$100,000 worth of improvements, thanks to the state of Indiana and the Vigo County Council.

Keith Ruble, Vigo County Park and Recreation director, said the money will be used for the development and construction of roadways in the park, electrical and water utility systems, parking lots and the construction of a shelter.

The state approved a \$50,000 land and water conservation grant for the park, while the council matched that amount.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Work to begin on county park

SEP 4 1980

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

The official ceremony marking the beginning of work on Vigo County's new multipurpose park Friday won't be the traditional "groundbreaking," but rather a dredging.

Development of the 12-acre lake is the first priority of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board. White Excavating has been awarded a \$20,000 contract to dredge three fingers of the lake to a depth of 5 to 6 feet, using the fill to widen existing roads.

County park superintendent Keith Ruble, assistant superintendent Chet Burkeybyle, and park board members will welcome local officials and interested persons to the park site at 11:30 a.m. Friday for a preview of the planned development which is expected to take several years.

Circuit Court Judge Hugh D. McQuillan, who appoints the members of the park board by virtue of his office, and County Council President Paul Newton will speak briefly at the park site.

Money to buy the land came from the park department's non-reverting capital fund and a matching \$150,000 federal grant administered through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Some federal funds are also available for development of outdoor recreational facilities, but such services as utilities must be provided locally.

Acquisition of the property occurred after a search lasting almost 10 years for a suitable site for a multipurpose park in the northeast part of the county.

The park board has been discussing priorities for the various phases of development for several months. The first phase includes work on the dam.

"Dredging is necessary to get better aquatic control," Burkeybyle noted. The next step will be to replace the principal spillway, emergency spillway and add riprap, he said.

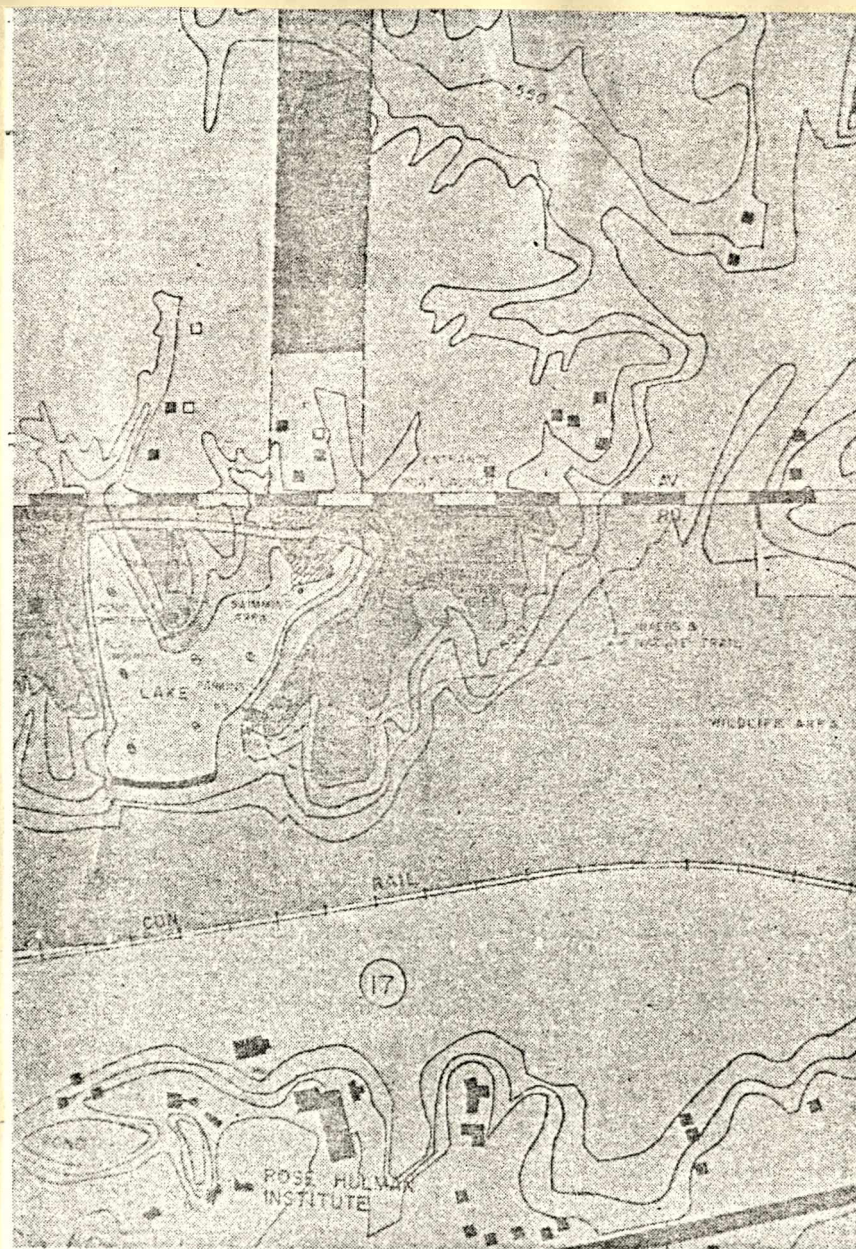
"It will take three years for fish to grow to sufficient size for fishing," Ruble added. The lake will be stocked in October (courtesy of the DNR) with bluegills, channel catfish, largemouth bass and crappies, Ruble said.

During the winter, work will continue to remove brush for camping and picnic areas.

Among the features of the lake in addition to a boat launch and swimming facilities will be a special area where handicapped persons may fish.

And as development continues, members of the park board — Max G. Miller, president; Susan McCarthy, vice president; Fox Burns, Burch Harlan, John Etling and John William Thompson, treasurer — will be faced with decisions on how the department's limited funds to complete the park should be spent.

(over)



PARK PLAN — This sketch shows the proposed plan for development of Vigo County's new multipurpose park just north of the Rose-Hulman campus. Fishing and swimming will be provided in a 12-acre lake. Development of the 234-acre site will take several years. The first work will involve dredging of three fingers of the lake and using the fill to widen existing roads. Varied recreational facilities are included in the long-range plan. Staff Photo/Bill Williams

New park plans taking shape for northern part of county

TS SEP 7 1980

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune-Star Writer

A long-time, high priority goal of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department has finally been realized — acquisition of a site for a multipurpose park in the northern part of the county.

An informal ceremony Friday of-

ficially kicked off the development of a 234-acre tract containing a 12-acre lake. The search for a suitable site lasted almost 10 years.

The task of developing the new and as yet unnamed park will take several years. It is located just north of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Several county officials and interested citizens journeyed to the park Friday for a tour of the site and an explanation of the proposed long-range plans for the multi-purpose facility.

Vigo Circuit Court Judge Hugh D. McQuillan, who appoints members of the county park board, complimented

the park department and its board for their work done all over the county.

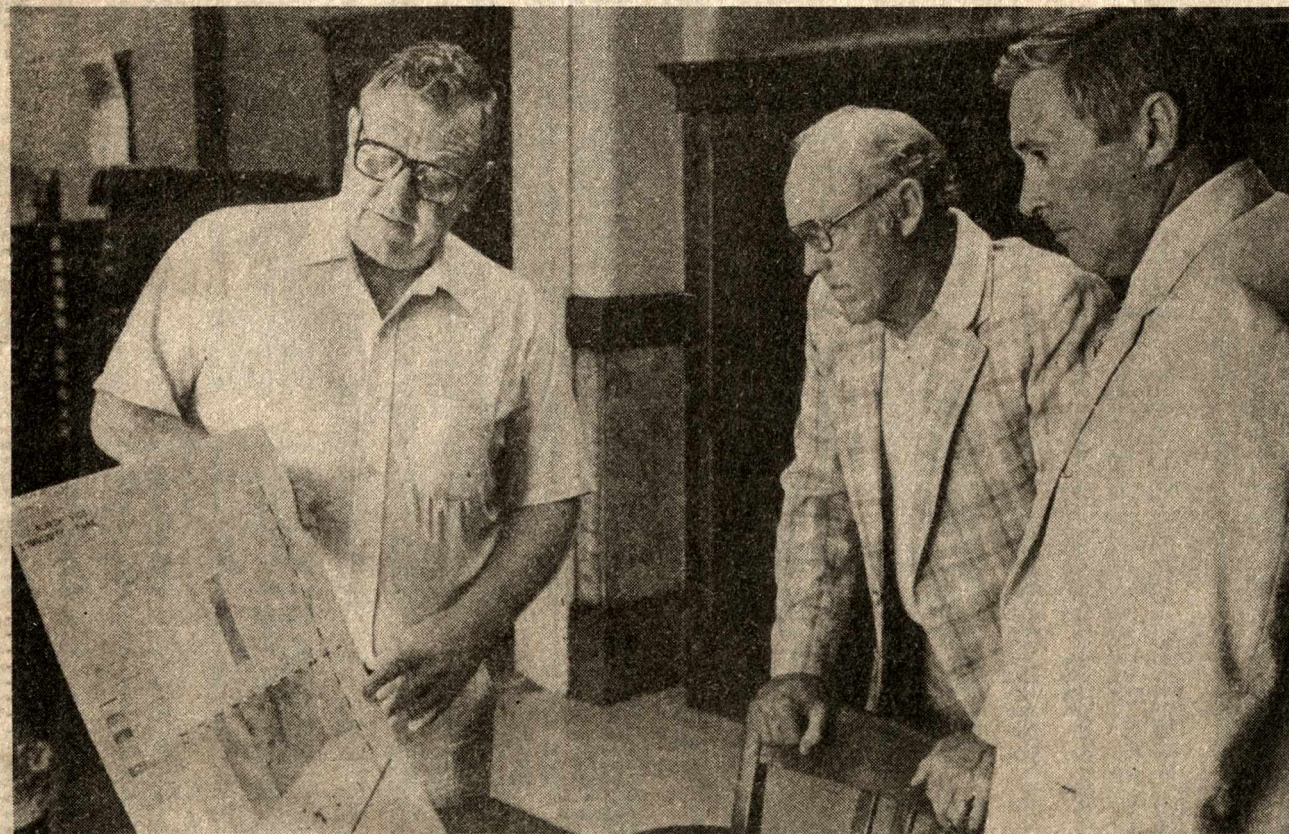
"From the plans, this ought to be one of the best county parks in Indiana or anywhere," the judge said, adding that "many thanks are due the Hulman family for making the acquisition of this site possible."

The arrangement to purchase the main parcel of land (more than 200 acres) included a transfer of property involving the Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Hulman interests. In addition, the park department purchased a tract of 27 acres just to the north where custodial and maintenance facilities and a plant nursery will be located.

McQuillan was enthusiastic about the idea of a plant nursery which can be used for all the county parks.

Park Superintendent Keith Ruble notes that the park would have "something for everyone." Included in plans are camping, boating, swimming and hiking facilities, along with a wildlife area, picnic shelter, creative playground and multi-purpose court. The design will include access for handicapped persons, Ruble added.

Funds to purchase the land came from the non-reverting capital fund and a matching \$150,000 federal grant administered through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.



Park plans viewed

Assistant Park Superintendent Chet Burkeybyle shows County Council President Paul Newton and Circuit Court Judge Hugh D. McQuillan the long-range plans for developing a new 234-acre park north of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The Vigo

County Park and Recreation Department marked the official start of work on the park Friday with groundbreaking ceremonies followed by a tour of the site which the county park department acquired recently.

Staff Photo/Bill Williams

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

(over)

Max G. Miller, park board president said he's "delighted about the new park because the department is now satisfying a long range master plan for multipurpose parks in the northern and southern parts of the county."

"We plan to make the new park similar to Fowler and Prairie Creek parks, putting in those kinds of multipurpose recreational facilities that a majority of people want and need, based on state surveys conducted by the DNR," Miller said.

The county park board is open for suggestions for a name for the new park. Members indicated they would prefer not to use the name of an individual, however.

Among the possibilities are Wabash, Maple, (the area has mostly hawthorne trees, though, Ruble said), Old National Road Park, Fox and Conestoga.

Verbal approval given on \$50,000 park grant

T SEP 23 1980

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department has received verbal approval of a \$50,000 Bureau of Outdoor Recreation grant for recreational facilities at the county's new northeast park, Supt. Keith Ruble told members of the park board at their regular monthly meeting Monday.

That federal grant will match an equal local share to develop recreational items at the 234-acre site for the multipurpose park which was recently acquired by the county park department.

But support systems, such as utilities and roads, must be provided through the park department's non-reverting capital fund, Ruble noted.

The board has approved a \$20,000 contract with White Excavating to dredge three fingers of the 12-acre lake to a depth of 5 to 6 feet, using the fill to widen the existing roads.

Other required work on the dam to meet flood control guidelines was also discussed during the meeting Monday. That is necessary, Ruble explained, so that the lake can be stocked for fishing (courtesy of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Fisheries).

Appropriations for the two initial projects at the new park are being requested during the Sept. 29 meeting of the Vigo County Council.

This county park department will also apply for an additional federal grant of \$70,000 for development of the new and as yet unnamed park located just north of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Park board members briefly discussed two items on their "dream list" — the eventual opening of Maple Avenue to the east, which would make the new north park more easily accessible, and acquisition of Peabody Coal property adjacent to Fowler Park.

The area would be a good addition to existing facilities at Fowler Park, board members agree. Negotiations are reported at dead center at present.

Under an agreement between the coal company and the Boy Scout

Council, a reversionary clause gives the property back to the coal company if it is not used for scouting purposes.

Park Board president Max G. Miller and Ruble both commented on recent action by the County Council and the Tax Adjustment Board on the park department's 1981 budget.

Upcoming park activities include the annual Pioneer Days Festival Oct. 4 and 5 at Fowler Park. The fall event draws thousands of visitors to the authentic pioneer settlement at the entrance to the park.

The Prairie Creek Volunteer Fire Department will be preparing food both days of the festival, Ruble said.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

New park priorities discussed by board

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

A discussion of priorities for development of the county's new and as yet unnamed park just north of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology dominated the regular meeting of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board Monday afternoon.

Superintendent Keith Ruble reminded board members of a bid opening this morning for renovation of the dam, included in Phase 1 of construction. The initial work, dredging the lake in three shallow fingers, is scheduled to be completed next month, Ruble said.

Funding has been approved for some Phase 2 work, which includes further dam renovation and installation of several recreational facilities.

Ruble explained that the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is requiring certain renovation of the dam, including widening of the emergency spillway, changing the principal spillway and adding riprap.

While funding has been approved for several projects (a combination of local moneys matched with Bureau of Outdoor Recreation grants ad-

ministered by the state DNR), Ruble said he will seek Heritage Conservation funds to provide utilities and roads in the new park. Other funding may be available from Community Development Block Grants, the superintendent said.

Ruble told the park board that the J.I. Case Co. wants a place to test equipment, and has offered to donate 112 hours of backhoe use at the new park site to help in the development of a wetland area included in the long-range plans.

Ruble also reported that the park department had received \$2,315.19 from the sale of soybeans grown on about 28 acres of the new park site.

The Pioneer Days festival, conducted at Fowler Park the first weekend in October, was the "most successful yet," park board members agreed.

In his monthly report on recreational opportunities provided by the county park system, Ruble discussed the popularity and educational value of nature tours at Hunt's Nature Center, which has been made available since 1970 by Dr. Edgar Hunt.

Parks & Recreation (Vigils.)

Name sought for new park

OCT 29 1980

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

What's in a name? Everything, in the opinion of Max G. Miller, president of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board, which is in the process of choosing a name for the recently acquired multi-purpose park site just north of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Lost Creek Township.

"Selecting a name — the right name — is a very important function of the park board," Miller emphasized, "as the name will last forever."

"We want to take our time and pick the one that's right," Miller said. But the board would like to make that decision by the end of 1980.

Board member Burch Harlan said he would like a name to be selected fairly soon; otherwise, the new park may get tagged "northeast county park" or something similar.

Several names have been sug-

gested, and all have merit, Miller said. He said he welcomes citizen input, children included, because this will help them "to possess ... to own ... the park."

The site is unique, and needs a theme, Miller said he believes. He agreed that the name ought to be short, easy to pronounce and spell, and unique as well.

One possibility would be a transportation theme, as the nearby Old National Trail was a gateway to the West. The theme might include a Conestoga wagon at the park entrance.

Park board members have indicated they do not want to name the new park after a person.

Names suggested include: North Hawthorne, Rose Hawthorne, Wabash Hawthorne and Hulman Hawthorne; Old National Park; Maple Rose Park; North East Rose Park; Vigo Rose Park; Maple Rose; Maple Avenue; Fox and Fox Glenn.

Indian lore was the basis for another group of names: Kickapoo, Miami, Wea, Shawnee, Red Ochre, Wanatah, Wawasee, Winnemac, Miami Mist and Red Haw.

Others being considered include Lost Creek, Orchardtown, Turkey Tail, Foxfire, Fox Run, White Tail, Finger Lake, Towpath, National Trail and Pioneer.

The other two multi-purpose county parks are in the southern part of the county. Fowler Park, which has a pioneer theme, complete with log village, was named in honor of Capt. Eugene Fowler, the first Vigo County resident to be killed in action in Viet Nam.

Prairie Creek Park was named because of its location.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Park Department Develops New Park Playground Areas

S. DEC 8 1981

Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)

Hawthorn Park's development continues, and a major step will be started later this month when the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board considers bids for construction and furnishing of three separate playgrounds.

Prospective bidders are being sought for what is described as fully—accessible playgrounds. Keith Ruble of the Parks and Recreation Department said this means the facilities will be designed with appropriate equipment making the playgrounds equally useable by the handicapped as well as the non—handicapped. He explained this includes such things as ramps and rails to be used by persons confined to wheelchairs.

Funds for the playground construction projects are 50 percent federal money and 50 percent local, according to Ruble. "Capital funds have been accumulating," Ruble said, "and we are moving ahead one step at a time." The federal money available to the county last year was limited, Ruble said, and could only be used for recreational type items. This includes such things as the playgrounds and picnic area development. Vigo County was successful in securing \$50,000 in federal money for these recreational items and according to Ruble much of this amount will be under contract before 1982.

Hawthorn Park, a 235—acre recreational facility, was acquired by the county in August 1980. Ruble expects the park to be open in two or three years. He said many jobs yet to be completed include services such as water and sewers. "Many of the jobs yet to be done are the most expensive," Ruble said.

The park board will open bids for the three playgrounds on Dec. 28. Exact details of the three areas are not available, but Ruble did state the plan is to have two "big" and one "small" playground covered in the bidding.

The board, later this month, will consider another set of bids for

recreational equipment to be placed near the lake.

Another major project planned for Hawthorn Park is a special fishing area, according to Ruble. This will be a fully—accessible recreational facility, the same as the playgrounds. Hard—surface walkways near the water with rails will make the lake accessible to those in wheelchairs and other handicapped persons, Ruble said. "The lake is all ready stocked," Ruble said.

Park department will spend the coming winter months constructing trails throughout the park. Ruble explained the trails are listed as service rather than recreational type items. Bids will be sought from providers of gravel and stone to be dumped on the property. Park department employees will spread the material to make the trails.

'Hawthorn Park'

Park & recreation (Vigo Co.)

Community Affairs File

New county park named

T JAN 27 1981

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

It wasn't easy, choosing a name for Vigo County's new multi-purpose park, but the County Park and Recreation Board finally selected "Hawthorn Park" Monday during the regular monthly meeting.

That name was a "dark horse entry" in the name game "sweepstakes," and did not actually appear on the list of some 36 names suggested to the board.

"The hawthorn is the primary tree species in the new park," according to Keith Ruble, county park and recreation superintendent.

The new 234-acre park site is located just north of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Several of the suggested names included combinations of "Rose" and "Maple" with "Hawthorne," though the tree is spelled "hawthorn."

Leading candidates for the name, up until Monday's meeting, featured some reference to the "Old National Trail."

The county park board has been accumulating suggestions for naming the new northeast park for the last several months.

Board President Max G. Miller had stressed that selecting a name is a very important function of the park board.

Work to develop the new park site

has begun, but the entire process will take several years.

In another decision, the park board has tentatively decided to add a 300-acre addition to Fowler Park "Fowler Park Primitive."

The additional acreage for that multi-purpose park is being acquired under an agreement between the Peabody Coal Co. and the Wabash Valley Boy Scout Council.

The coal company had given the Boy Scout Council the use of the property, with the property reverting back to Peabody if not used for scouting purposes.

The 300-acre tract adjacent to Fowler Park contains nearly 20 acres of lakes. Earlier, the county park board had agreed that part of the "new" site should be used exclusively for primitive camping.

Ruble said the park department will apply for federal matching funds to develop the primitive camping area, but emphasized that the new Hawthorn Park has top priority.

In his special report to the board on recreational opportunities available in the county park system, Ruble discussed the popularity of camping.

He said from April to October last year, camping fees at Fowler Park totaled \$14,929, and at Prairie Creek, \$2,027.

He said the county must update its system of electrical outlets used by

campers at the parks.

Ruble also noted that the county park department is not in the camping business to make money, but just break even and offer good camping facilities. But a review of fees charged is in order by the board. Current fees are below those charged in other parks, and an increase may be necessary to offset inflationary costs.

The park superintendent also discussed legislation pending in the Indiana General Assembly to change the method of appointing members of county park boards.

Also, in preparation for the annual maple syrup making operation at Prairie Creek Park, park workers will begin tapping maple trees Wednesday.

"We're starting early because of the recent warm spell," Ruble explained. A freezing and thawing process is critical to the success of the syrup-making, he noted.

Tentatively, the operation should be in full swing the last week of February or the first week in March, Ruble said. School tours will again be conducted. Ruble suggests that persons interested in observing the syrup-making should check with his office to find out the best time for a visit.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

'Hawthorne Park' Finally Selected—

To Be Or Not To Be Is The Question Park Officials Faced In Picking Name

S JAN 27 1981

By J. BLAINE AKERS, Star Staff Writer

It is not an easy job naming a park since you have to take into account such factors as heritage, pronunciation and even the number of words you print on a sign at the entrance to the park. Monday, the Vigo County Park and Recreation Board ended several weeks of frustration and named the 234-acre recreational site north of the Rose-Hulman campus. "Hawthorne Park."

Spelling may be one factor the board forgot, however. Board members said they named the park because of the thousands of trees located around the Lost Creek Township site. The thorny trees with spring-blossoming flowers and tiny red fruits are "h-a-w-t-h-o-r-n" and not "H-a-w-t-h-o-r-n-e" after the famous short-story writer, Nathaniel Hawthorne.

The name "Hawthorn Park" was not one of the more than 36 suggestions voted on by the board, although three names with the word "hawthorne" were on the ballot. In fact, the leading candidates for the park name prior to Tuesday were "Old National Road Park," "National Trail Park" and "Veterans Memorial Park."

Board members also unofficially named a 300-acre site on the eastern edge of Fowler Park.

Recently, the Wabash Valley Boy Scouts of America offered to donate the acreage for purposes of further development of Fowler Park as a recreational site. Since a part of the acreage is to be used for primitive-type activities, it was suggested naming the area "Fowler Park Primitive."

According to Keith Ruble, superintendent of the county park and recreation department, an application is being prepared to procure federal matching funds for developing the Fowler Park primitive sector for purposes of camping.

During the months April to October, the park department collected \$14,929 as a result of campers using the park. He said revenues at Prairie Creek Park were \$2,027 last year.

"Camping is going to continue to be popular. We are not in the business to make money, but instead just break even and offer good camping facilities," Ruble explained.

Ruble said the county must update its system of electrical outlets used by campers at the parks. He said the system has been updated twice since 1969.

Park officials also plan to review fees charged campers. Ruble said current fees are below those charged in similar parks and an increase may be necessary to offset inflationary costs.

The park superintendent also discussed legislation currently being studied by the Indiana House of Representatives. He said the legislation proposes to change the procedure used in naming park and recreation board members and the park superintendent.

Board members here are appointed to staggered terms and the proposal in the House suggests terms for all board members expire at the same time. Two Republicans and two Democrats are now appointed to the board by the circuit court judge, a fifth member is chosen by the mayor and the sixth member is elected by virtue of serving as the director of the county extension service.

Ruble said he is opposed to the proposed law and recommends persons contact their representatives about the proposal.

It also was announced Monday park officials would begin tapping maple trees Wednesday.

Hawthorn Park bid awarded

Community Affairs File

T s JUN 28 1983

County board puts off WTH park decision**By Patricia Krapesh***Tribune-Star Staff Reporter*

The Vigo County Parks and Recreation Board on Monday postponed action on the South Seventh Street Park in West Terre Haute.

In April, parks officials asked the West Terre Haute town board to assume ownership of the half-acre park because of recurring vandalism. Parks officials wanted to sell the park or deed it to the town board.

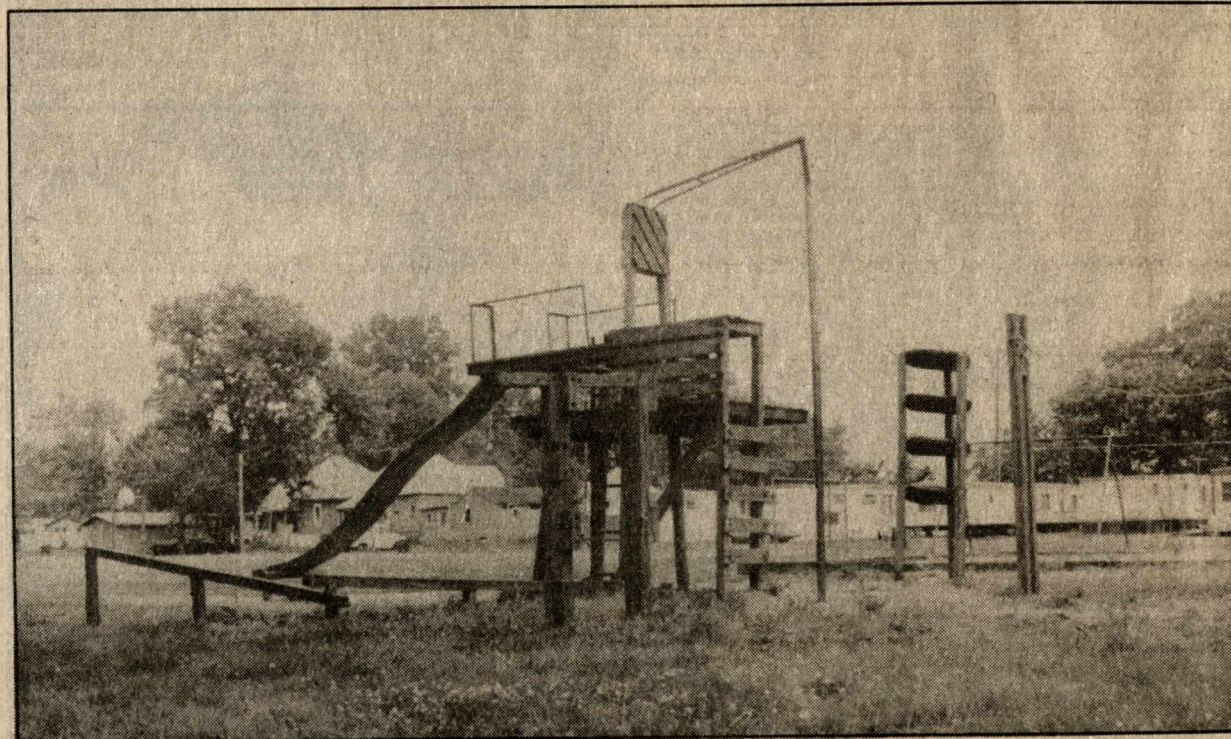
Late last month, the town board decided to take responsibility for the park, rather than see it closed.

Monday, Keith Ruble, parks superintendent, suggested another option may be for the county parks department to retain ownership of the park and financial responsibility for any capital improvements and liability insurance.

The town could take over maintenance, such as grass mowing, and the West Terre Haute Police Department could monitor the park more closely, Ruble said.

Jerry Lyon, president of the West Terre Haute town board, said Monday during a telephone interview, "The park's going to be a financial burden for us." But he understood the park would be closed unless the board took over ownership, he said.

H. Randall Herrington, West Terre Haute Democratic town com-



Good times: Park stands empty as its future is debated

mittee chairman, discussed the park problem with Ruble before the meeting.

Herrington said he is affiliated with the town's levee association whose equipment could be used for maintenance of the park.

In other business:

• Ruble said a contract was awarded to 2-M Corp. for \$23,169 for installation of the primary water system at Hawthorn Park. Earlier this month, seven firms submitted bids ranging from \$22,420 to \$47,255.

Plant Bros. Construction submitted the low \$22,420 bid, but it was

disqualified because the bid forms were not properly signed, Ruble said.

• Discussion on proposed 1984 salaries and wages for parks department employees was postponed until 7 p.m. Wednesday, when the board meets in special session.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

Parks + Recreation (Vigors)

Park priorities discussed

T AUG 25 1980

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

A lengthy discussion of priorities for Vigo County's new northeast park highlighted a meeting of the County Park and Recreation Board Monday afternoon.

Park and Recreation Superintendent Keith Ruble said the department will apply for a \$50,000 federal grant by Sept. 1, which, with a local match of \$50,000, could provide several recreational facilities.

Ruble presented two plans for development of the new 234-acre park, based on the availability of federal assistance.

Ruble noted that the federal funds may be used for recreational items only, and not for support systems such as utilities, roads, etc. The park department has an estimated \$144,000 for development of the new facility from its non-reverting capital fund.

The new park is just north of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The actual transfer of the property to the park department is expected to take place soon.

Meanwhile, some of the un-

derbrush is being cleared and some bulldozing being done with equipment loaned by the highway department, Ruble said.

The park department intends to award a bid for \$20,000 to White Excavating to dredge the three fingers of the 12-acre lake to a depth of 5 to 6 feet. The fill will be used to widen the existing roads.

For both suggested plans, cleaning the lake bed out and repairing the dam are first priority.

Assuming federal funds are available, the recreation facilities to be established include a playfield, two playgrounds (one for the camping area), a multi-purpose court, and a swimming beach. The board showed little enthusiasm for a suggested Frisbee golf course, suggesting a picnic shelter instead.

If federal funds do not develop, Plan 2 proposes (after lake bed and dam work) to install sewers (estimated at \$60,000), water, electricity and recreational items.

Development of the site into a multi-purpose park is expected to take several years. Money to

purchase the site came from the park department's non-reverting capital fund with a \$150,000 matching federal grant.

The park board is still open for suggestions for a name for the new park, Ruble said.

In other discussion, the board heard plans for the Oct. 4 and 5 Pioneer Days Festival at Fowler Park. Ruble stressed that Vigo County has the only county park in the state with a pioneer settlement. He noted the increasing popularity of the little village for tours and for meetings.

A film being made in cooperation with Purdue University on pioneer life is nearing completion, Ruble reported, and will be used extensively as an educational tool prior to actual tours of the pioneer village.

Board Treasurer John William Thompson conducted the meeting Monday in the absence of Max G. Miller, president, and Susan McCarthy, vice-president. Other board members attending were John Etling and Fox Burns. Burch Harlan was absent.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)

Park project long-term

T JUL 29 1980

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board is in the process of establishing priorities for development of its new northeast county park site just north of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Some of the first work to be done on the 16-acre lake includes dredging three fingers to a depth of 5 to 6 feet to eliminate the algae problem, Park and Recreation Superintendent Keith Ruble said.

After paying for the 234-acre site the park department will determine how much money will be available for development of the property.

Ruble estimates it will take all winter to clear the area. Bids for cleanup, as well as the dredging, will be the first to be advertised.

The board will have to decide what major projects to tackle first — and in what order. An estimated \$158,000 will be available, and there is a possibility of the department's obtaining an additional \$50,000 from federal moneys for outdoor recreation channeled through the Indiana

Department of Natural Resources.

Of the primary utility services, Ruble estimates, it will cost from \$30,000 to \$40,000 for water lines and \$50,000 to \$60,000 for sewers.

Development of the new park is a long-range project which will require from four to five years. Several park board members believe that the lake should be the first priority.

The county park board is also open for suggestions for a name for the new multi-purpose park. Members indicated they would prefer not to use the name of an individual, though. Names presented to date include Wabash, Maple (the area mostly has hawthorne trees, Ruble said), Old National Road Park, Fox and Conestoga.

Money to buy the park comes from the park department's non-reverting capital fund and a \$150,000 federal grant administered through the DNR.

Board members expressed their concern over the stalled negotiations with officials of the Boy Scout Council over Peabody Coal property adjacent to Fowler Park.

The area would be a good addition

to the existing facilities at Fowler Park, as it contains a large fishing lake, Ruble noted.

The agreement between the coal company and the Boy Scouts contains a reversionary clause which gives the property back to the coal company if it is not used for scouting purposes.

Park board members hope to meet with Boy Scout and Peabody officials to discuss the matter.

Ruble told the board that the swimming area at Prairie Creek Park had been closed because of high water, silt and sediment. The possibility of using the small lake at the park instead for swimming was briefly discussed.

The park board took no action during its Monday meeting on a possible resolution banning alcoholic beverages in county parks, but decided to check further to determine if any existing laws were applicable.

Ruble reported that the sheriff had told him that it was necessary for the park board to pass a resolution before the sheriff's department could arrest anyone for drinking alcoholic beverages in county parks.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Parks + Recreation Community Affairs File
(Vigo Co.)

Vigo County to get \$66,300 Ts JUL 13 1980 toward new northeast park

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board is slated to receive a check for \$66,300 toward purchase of land for a northeast county park.

The check represents partial reimbursement from the Federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for acquisition of the new park site, according to the report. The money came to the State of Indiana's Department of Natural Resources and will be sent on to the county park board, according to Joseph D. Cloud, director of DNB.

The project is receiving financial assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund which provides 50 percent of the cost for acquisition of lands and waters and the development of public outdoor recreation sites and facilities, it was noted.

The Indiana DNR administers this federal assistance program. In addition to obligating money to state projects, the DNR makes funds available to city and county park and recreation boards. Since the inception of the program in 1965, more than \$26 million has been invested in such local projects.

The Vigo County Park Board, after numerous efforts during the past several years to obtain property for a multi-purpose park in the northern part of the county, took action in May to acquire a 234-acre site just north of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

Cost of the property is estimated at \$295,000. The county council approved the park board's use of \$232,534 from its non-reverting capital fund to buy the site.

The main parcel — some 206.55 acres — is a transfer of property involving the Catholic Archdiocese of

Indianapolis and the Hulman interests. A northern tract of 27 acres where custodial and maintenance facilities will be located will be purchased from Herbert G. Moss.

The site contains a 16-acre lake. The multi-purpose park will have "something for everyone," according to Keith Ruble, county park and recreation superintendent.

It will take several years to develop the park, Ruble said. Included in the plans are facilities for camping, boating, swimming, and hiking, along with a planned plant nursery, wildlife area, bathhouse, boat launch, modern restrooms, picnic shelter, creative playground and multi-purpose court.

All facilities will be designed for access by handicapped persons, the superintendent said.

Transportation access to the park is considered excellent, with Maple Avenue to the north, and U.S. 40 and the Stop 10 road to the south and east.

Also, another "plus" for the site is the availability of city water and sewer systems.

No "new money" is being used to acquire the north park site, it is reported. Money has been accumulating in the non-reverting capital fund, which can only be used for land acquisition or capital improvements, park board president Max G. Miller emphasized.

The county's other two multi-purpose parks, Fowler and Prairie Creek, are both in the southern part of the county.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

New park appropriation asked

By R. EDWARD ALLEN
Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park Board has unanimously approved a request the Vigo County Council appropriate park department funds to purchase and develop land for use as a northeast county park.

The action was taken at a board meeting Monday after a presentation by Park Director Keith Ruble, who showed maps of the proposed park site and explained various aspects of the project.

Cost of the purchase is estimated at \$295,000. The park board expects to use some \$232,500 it has collected in its nonreverting capital fund over the years, along with an expected Department of Natural Resources grant of \$150,000 for purchase and development of the park.

Included in the arrangement to purchase the main parcel of land — some 206.55 acres — is a transfer of property involving the Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the

Hulman interests.

Reportedly, the Archdiocese would transfer its deed to the Paul Schulte High School site to the Hulman interests, which would in turn transfer the main portion of the proposed park site to the archdiocese. The archdiocese then would sell the property to the park department.

Park Board President Max Miller emphasized that no "new money" would be used for the project. He noted that monies in the nonreverting capital fund can only be used for land acquisition or capital improvements.

Finding the park site and working out arrangements where it can be purchased has answered a dream the park board has had for 10 or 11 years, many members indicated.

Board member Burch Harlan said the site location is so good that "it's just like it was manufactured for us."

The 234-acre site — with a 16-acre lake — is located just north of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. It is

bounded on the north by Maple Avenue and on the east by the Stop 10 Road near Lost Creek Elementary School. The Boy Scout Camp is located to the west of the site.

Ruble explained a northern tract of 27 acres where custodial and maintenance facilities would be located would be purchased from Herbert and Lorene Moss.

The multi-purpose park would have something for everyone — from the "toddlers to the grandparents" — Ruble said.

Included in the plans are camping, boating, swimming and hiking capabilities. Also planned are a plant nursery, wildlife area, bathhouse, boat launch, modern restrooms, picnic shelter, creative playground, and multi-purpose court. Ruble noted all facilities will be designed for access by handicapped persons.

Another asset for the site is the availability for city water and city sewer systems. Also, transportation

T MAY 20 1980

access to the park is thought to be excellent with Maple Avenue to the north and U.S. 40 and the Stop 10 Road to the south and east.

Development of a county park for the northern part of Vigo County is something that has been under study since the first county park was initiated in 1967, Ruble said. There has been a definite need for a park in the northern part of the county and a survey taken by the department involving residents of all walks of life indicated that a northern county park was a number one priority, he said.

The proposed location is also unique in that it is situated in a centralized area where a large number of people live. This should assure high utilization of the park's facilities, Ruble indicated.

It was also noted during the meeting that the proposed park is probably the last one that will be proposed for Vigo County because of the continuing strain on tax dollars.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

T JUN 5 1980

Vigo County Council OKs funding for northern park

Community Affairs File

Community Affairs File

Parks and Recreation - Vigo Co.

By R. EDWARD ALLEN
Tribune Staff Writer

A park for northern Vigo County passed a key hurdle Wednesday as the Vigo County Council unanimously approved the funding for its land acquisition and development.

The council approved an appropriation of \$232,534 from the park and recreation department's special non-reverting capital fund that is specifically for land acquisition and major capital improvements.

The park site is located north of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and is bounded by Maple Avenue to the north. Land acquisition involves purchase of a 206-acre tract from Hulman & Co. and a 26.6-acre parcel from Herbert G. Moss, according to Park Director Keith Ruble, who made a presentation to the council.

Ruble noted that a northern county park has been sought since 1970 and a survey of county residents indicated that a such a park was a top priority.

Included in the proposed activities to be provided by the recreation area are fishing, boating, swimming, camping and picnicking. Also, a wildlife area is to be provided along with a creative playground, nature trails and modern restrooms.

Ruble noted that the park will have access to city water and sewer systems.

In other action, the council voted to create a tourism commission for the county.

Legislation establishing the opportunity to create such a commission was passed by the Indiana General Assembly in this past session. The commission is to be funded by a hotel-motel tax charged to those who stay in the local establishments.

The council also passed a stipulation suggested by L.E. "Gene" Frazier that the commission's budget for salaries not exceed 25 percent of revenues collected when revenues equal or exceed \$125,000 per year.

The council also named two persons to serve on the commission. They are Charles M. Clark, administrative assistant for the Vigo County School Corp., and Bill Burdine, innkeeper of the Holiday Inn. Two other commissioners are to be appointed by the county commissioners and one by Mayor Pete Chalos.

In other action the council voted on numerous money items, including approval for \$650,060 for county road repairs and for hiring extra help for the highway department.

Also approved were: \$9,837 for a grant match for the McMillan Adult Day Care Center; \$2,000 for the county treasurer for extra help; \$61,000 for repairs to a bridge on Cox Road in Prairieton and \$8,297 for repairs to a bridge on 65th Avenue, east of 125th Street in Nevins Township.

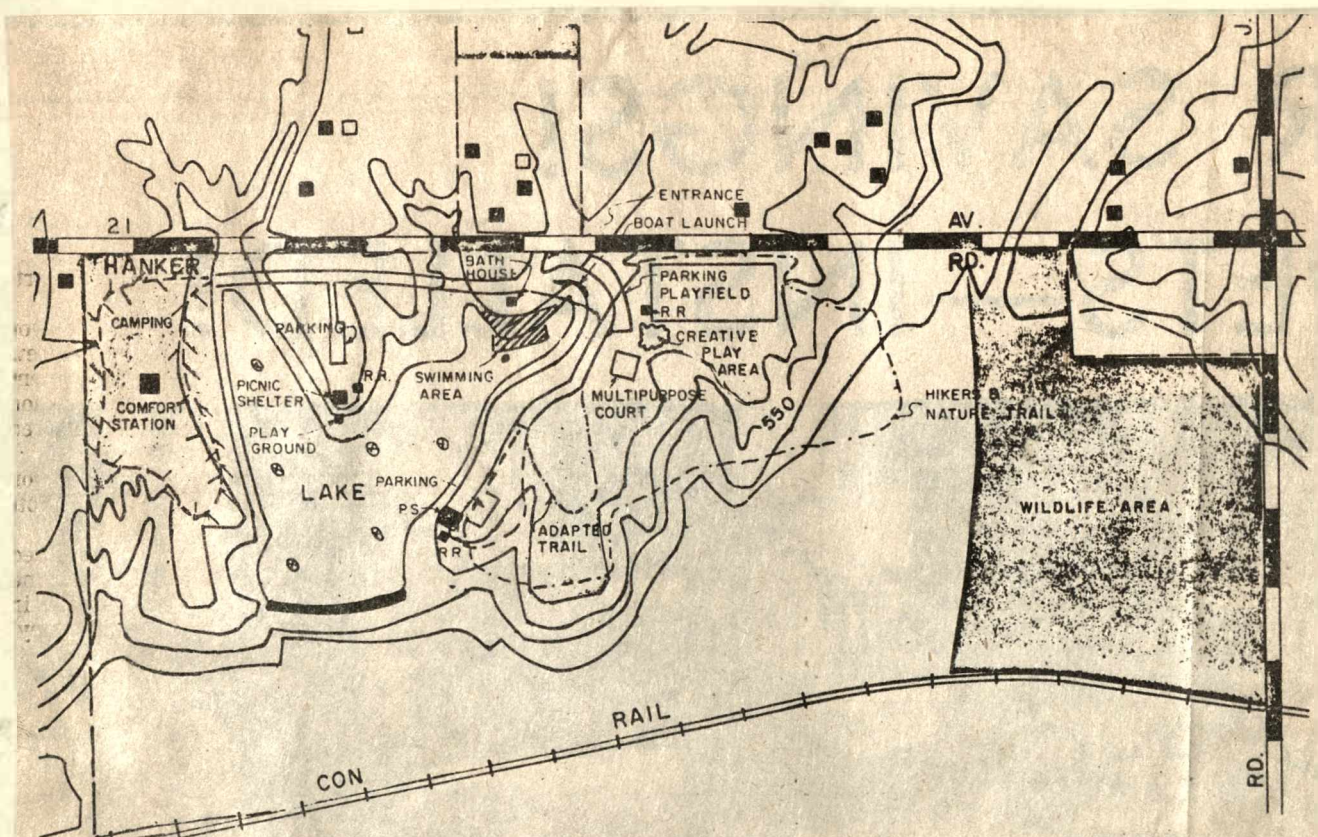
Also, \$10,000 for meals for prisoners; \$6,500 for sheriff's department radio dispatcher; \$700 for a

security bank vault system for food stamps and \$6,500 for gasoline and unemployment compensation for group homes administered by the welfare department.

In other matters, the council appointed Councilman Charles Fouty to the Tax Adjustment Board and Herschell Bouillez to the Vigo County Alcoholic Beverage Board.

Also, the council appointed a committee of three — Paul Newton, Gordon Geckeler and Fouty — to meet with the county commissioners and representatives of private ambulance companies to review non-emergency ambulance runs in the county.

In addition, the council set Wednesday, July 9, at 7 p.m. for a public hearing to discuss whether the county should pass a resolution that would allow a housing authority for the county. The session will be conducted in the county commissioners room in the courthouse.



COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES PARK — A new county park for north Vigo County got a unanimous approval from the Vigo County Council Wednesday as the appropriating body approved allocating \$232,534 from the park and recreation special non-reverting capital fund to

purchase and develop land for the project. This map from the Park and Recreation Department shows what the new park will have in store for county residents when it is completed. A feature of the park will be a 15-acre lake that will provide swimming, boating and fishing enjoyment.

S MAY 20 1980

Land Exchange Provides Park Site

The Vigo County Park Board at its meeting Monday unanimously agreed to request the County Council to appropriate funds for a land purchase on the city's northside for development of a county park.

Park Director Keith Ruble made a presentation of the site which was accepted by the board as a good location for the proposed park.

The 232-acre tract, which extends north of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to Maple Avenue, is priced at \$230,000. A northern section is part of the original Hulman farms.

Purchase of the land would be made from the Catholic Archdiocese in Indianapolis who will gain ownership of the property through a land exchange with Hulman interests.

Joseph A. Cloutier, Newlin-Johnson Development Co. vice president, said the transfer will involve the former Paul Schulte High School site, owned by the archdiocese, and the proposed park property, currently owned by Hulman interests.

Cloutier said the transfer possibly would not occur until after the council decision on funding the park. He added there are no plans at present for the Schulte property.

Park board member Max Miller said funds for the proposed park

would be allocated from a non-reverting capital fund which consists of taxes collected in past years.

Miller added \$150,000 in matching funds would be available from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

If funds are approved at the council's June 4 meeting, park construction may begin as early as late July, Miller said. However, the project would require five to 10 years for complete development.

Miller said the proposed park would be a "multi-purpose facility" and would be similar to Fowler Park. A lake which would accommodate swimming, boating and fishing is planned. In addition, a sand beach, which is not available at any other county park, would be developed.

A creative playground, trail system, and overnight camping facilities are also scheduled for the park.

Board says no to proposed north park site

T MAR 25 1980

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board, meeting Monday afternoon, voted unanimously against acquiring a proposed 140-acre site for a multipurpose park near Fontanet in Nevins Township.

The official action came after several months of discussion about the feasibility of the project, particularly the costs of constructing a dam and a 20-acre lake.

The bottom line was money. The park board decided it would be difficult to justify spending an estimated \$135,000 to build a 15-acre lake (that figures to be about \$9,000 per acre, board member Burch Harlan pointed out), plus land costs estimated at \$120,000.

Though establishment of a multipurpose park in northeastern Vigo County has been a high priority item on the park department's list for the past 10 years, efforts have come to naught on several other occasions.

The park department has not written off a northeast park, board members assured Carl Gregory, a Nevins Township property owner at the Mon-

day meeting. The board will continue to search for a suitable site in the area.

Various estimates of costs of constructing a dam and a 20-acre lake (the minimum size Park Superintendent Keith Ruble considers necessary for swimming, boating and fishing) have been discussed by the board for the past several months.

Gregory had suggested the possibility of using sheet steel pilings

to control the water flow. Both he and Ruble have investigated various types of dam construction which might be possible.

"The cost estimates are the biggest hangup. The soil types vary, and the question is will the dam hold water," Ruble said. He noted that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation also has to approve the plans.

The park department had received a \$150,000 federal grant, to be matched with that amount from local park moneys, for the northeast park project.

Gregory offered to sell 115 acres of his property for \$800 per acre, including a shed on the north edge. It would also be necessary for the park department to purchase about 27 acres of the Don Cooper property to provide access to the proposed park. No appraised value was available on the Cooper parcel.

Gregory, obviously disappointed at the board's action, said he thought it

was "our last chance" to get a park in the Fontanet area.

In other business, Ruble reported that this was a "fairly good season" for maple syrup production at Prairie Creek Park.

"We made 163 gallons in 1980, compared to 145 in 1979 and 50 in 1978," Ruble said.

The park department has sold about \$1,400 worth of syrup to date. Syrup in gallons, half gallons, quarts and pints is still available from the park department's office at the courthouse.

Ruble said that the maple trees at Prairie Creek will be thinned out to improve the stand, based on recent refractometer tests by a state forester to determine the sugar content of the sap.

Board President Max G. Miller conducted the monthly meeting. All six members were present, along with Ruble and assistant superintendent Chet Burkeybyle.

Vigo Park Board seeking more data on proposed park

T DEC 18 1979

Community Affairs File

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board needs more technical information about a proposed 140-acre park site in Nevins Township before proceeding with oft-delayed plans to establish a multi-purpose county park in the northeastern part of the county.

Park Superintendent Keith Ruble told the board Monday that he is still investigating alternatives to construction of an earthen dam for a proposed 20-acre lake, and expects to obtain more information shortly from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Initial results of deep borings indicated that it would not be feasible to put in an earthen dam at the site, because of an estimated \$100,000 additional cost.

Park proponents had suggested the possibility of using steel pilings and sheet steel to control the water flow. At the board's direction last month, Ruble has been checking into this kind of dam construction and its relative safety.

Discussion of the northeast park (a high priority item for more than 10 years), the department's year-end financial status and the future relationship of the county and city park departments highlighted the board meeting.

Ruble noted that "the park department is in really good shape financially," and will return \$63,797.32 to the county general fund at year's end.

"It was a banner year for collections and fees, and we made about \$1,500 on maple syrup," he said. The year's budget totaled \$244,991, and the department has spent \$181,193.68, the superintendent said.

He attributed much of the ability to stay within the budget to keeping a well-stocked inventory and being able to spend the money on goods and services. Operation of the Glenn Recreation Center had taken a considerable chunk of the park budget for several years, Ruble pointed out.

Possible coordination of city and county park activities will be pursued in future talks with mayor-elect Pete Chalos, to be arranged by board member Susan McCarthy. She and

Ruble will discuss coordinated programming with Chalos.

Board members expressed concern about duplication of efforts as well as the need to fill in the gaps of the city and county park departments.

Though apparently willing to cooperate and coordinate efforts with the city park system, the county park board members reserved comment about any restructuring of the park departments. This may be accomplished in several different ways, Board President Max G. Miller explained.

In other matters, Ruble said he had had no reply yet from the Vigo County School Corp. on the park department's suggestion that the VCSC deed the Pimento School property (but raze the buildings) to the park department for a rural recreation site.

Ruble also reported that an aeration system has been installed in the Prairie Creek Park lake to prevent a fishkill in winter and to control algae in the summertime. Severe weather three years ago resulted in a massive fishkill.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo Park Board hears testimony of residents

NOV 27 1979

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Board heard from residents of Fontanet and Pimento Monday about the need for parks in those areas, and received a favorable "attitude survey" from persons living in the vicinity of Fowler and Prairie Creek Parks during a meeting Monday afternoon.

Efforts to establish a multipurpose park in northeastern Vigo County have been stymied during the past nine years for various reasons, but a delegation from Fontanet told the park board Monday that "We need something in this area, and if we don't get it now we never will."

A proposed 140-acre site owned by two persons in Nevins Township is still under consideration by the board. Though results of two deep borings were not considered favorable for construction of a dam for a 20-acre lake, residents suggested an alternate site and a smaller lake.

Hurst-Rosche Engineers of Indiana, Inc., in a technical report, estimated it would cost an additional \$100,000 to build a dam in the area surveyed.

But Carl Gregory, owner of 115 acres of the proposed site, suggested that a less expensive alternative might be the tying together of two existing ponds to create a smaller lake of 7 to 9 acres, and using sheet pilings to control the water flow.

Ruble was instructed to check with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources concerning this kind of dam construction and its relative safety.

Board President Max G. Miller stressed that in order to re-apply for a federal grant, the board must be able to justify that the proposed new park is indeed multipurpose. The size of the lake might be the deciding factor, it was noted.

Plans for a \$300,000 park in the area fell through several months ago. About half the funding was to come from a federal grant, and the rest from the park department's non-reverting capital fund. The Gregory property (115 acres) is appraised at

\$90,000 but no price has been set on the 26 acres owned by the Cooper family.

Several Fontanet residents told the park board they want a "gathering place, with picnic areas, playground and camping," with fishing "not that important."

But they were cool to the suggestion of board member Burch Harlan about a small neighborhood playground only.

Pimento residents however, represented by Harold Tichenor at Monday's meeting, want the park department to acquire several acres of the Pimento School site as an outdoor, in-town recreation area.

That idea was suggested more than a year ago, in anticipation of the school's closing when the new Hoosier Prairie Elementary School opened.

Negotiations with the Vigo County School Corp. over disposition of the Pimento School were authorized by the park board. However, members emphasized they were not interested in the buildings or the septic system, but only in the site for outdoor recreation.

Details concerning razing of the buildings remain to be discussed.

Miller summarized findings of the "attitude survey" of 102 families about whether Fowler and Prairie Creek Parks are good neighbors.

Miller said he was "extremely pleased," and that the results were "more favorable than I would have guessed." Such surveys can provide guidance for the board in future projects, board member John Etling commented.

In his report, Ruble said the approval of funding from a resource conservation fund grant would permit a water project for the Prairie Creek Park lake, installation of an underground water line at Fowler Park and extension of the beach.

He noted that a new finger system has been installed for the log barn at Fowler Park and that a new aeration system has been installed in the Prairie Creek Park lake.

The lake was restocked after a massive fish kill three winters ago, the superintendent said.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

County Park Dept. Returns \$63,797.32 To General Fund

DEC 18 1979
Parks & Recreation, Vigo Co.

By GENIE FOWLER
Star Staff Writer

Discussion of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department year-end financial status, feasibility of establishing a county park in the Fontanent area, and the possibility of coordinating programming with the Terre Haute Park Department highlighted Monday's board meeting.

Board members were informed by County Park Superintendent Keith Ruble, there will be a total of \$63,797.32 turned back into the park general fund at the end of the fiscal year 1979.

The park board had a budget for the year totalling \$244,991 and out of that monies \$181,193.68 had been spent.

Ruble told the board the county park department was able to stay "well within the budget" adding, "We're in really good shape and shouldn't have any problems getting our money next year."

Ruble attributed much of the ability to stay within the budget to keeping a well-stocked inventory and being able to spend the money on goods and services as opposed to the expenditures the park board has been faced with in previous years.

In other business Ruble reported the county park department is still gathering information on the feasibility of establishing a park on the county's northeast flank.

Ruble said core samples taken in a recent survey indicate soil problems at the proposed park site in Fontanent could cost upwards of an additional \$100,000 to construct a dam near that area.

Ruble explained he is currently gathering information for alternative materials to construct the dam which would meet state standards. He told the board he has requested informa-

tion from Jim Buck of the State Parks and Lakes Inspection Section, on alternate materials available, where dams have been built in the state with the alternate materials and what construction firms were used.

Ruble added the engineer's report was not quite complete on the project.

Carl Gregory, owner of the property being considered for the park site, attended Monday's meeting in hopes of seeing further progress on the project.

Final matters before the board included discussion of possible coordination between the city and county park boards "to prevent duplication in programs and fill in the gaps" between the two boards.

Board member Susan McCarthy reported a recent conversation with mayor-elect Pete Chalos indicated the new city administration would be interested in meeting with city and park board representatives to discuss the matter.

Upon suggestion of board president Max Miller, McCarthy and Ruble are to establish a meeting date with the mayor-elect for further discussion on the coordination plan.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Sp JUL 7 1979

County councilmen oppose park land condemnation

Parks and Recreation (Vigo Co.)

On June 8, 1979, all seven county councilmen signed a letter to the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department expressing opposition to condemnation as a means of acquiring property for a park in Fontanet. The letter refers to the fact that Mrs. Mary Farr appeared before the council in May to protest the development of a park on property she owns and does not want to sell.

"At the time funds were appropriated by the Council for a park in the northern part of Vigo County the Council agreed they did not want litigation and asked if they could be assured of this," the letter states.

When the Park Board met last week, the council letter was not mentioned at the public session.

The board had scheduled an executive session thirty minutes prior to its public meeting to consider "pending or threatened litigation," but Max Miller, president of the board, said that after convening, members decided their discussion could be held publicly. So they adjourned the private meeting and waited to begin the regularly scheduled public June board meeting at the announced time.

The Park Department plans to establish a multi-purpose recreation facility on a 100-acre tract belonging to Max Gibson, which he is willing to sell at a below-market-value price of \$55,000, and another 40-acre tract containing a lake that belongs to Mrs. Farr. A \$150,000 federal grant is to be matched with \$130,000 local funds.

Farr has said she will not sell her property and intends to fight to retain it. She has been notified by James McDonald, an attorney employed by the Park Board to assist in acquiring land for the park, that a condemnation suit will be filed if terms for purchasing her property cannot be agreed upon.

Farr and several of her children who also own some of the property involved in the proposed park attended the board meeting last week and raised a number of questions.

Mrs. Farr submitted a list of more than a dozen statements in the federal grant application for project funds that she thinks are incorrect. Superintendent Keith Ruble is to answer these at the July board meeting.

Ruble said he and West Central Indiana Economic Development District prepared the application and that he stands on its accuracy.

The board agreed that before the next meeting, Ruble should investigate an alternate park location. Farr says a tract of land is for sale in Coal Bluff, within one mile of the proposed park location. She said the area is 175 acres and is priced at \$450 per acre. "There are roads, there's a small lake, and there's a mined area that could be turned into a lake just like mine," she explained.

Ruble said the recreational quality of the Farr-Gibson property is far superior to the other site, and added that the county would have to reapply for federal funds if plans are changed.

The board instructed Ruble to determine specifically if it would be necessary to resubmit the grant application if location of the park is changed.

The board also suggested that Gibson should be invited to attend the next board meeting. It was implied that he really may not wish to sell his property to the county.

Questions were also raised about homes located on the Farr property, and member Burch Harlan summed up a lengthy discussion when he said, "I think there's some misunderstanding here."

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

Parks and Recreation (Vigo Co) 8p JUL 14 1979

Gibson withdraws park property gift

A new snag developed last week in the Vigo County Park Department's plans to establish a multi-purpose recreation facility in Fontanet. Max Gibson, owner of 100 acres included in the project, withdrew his offer to sell land for the park.

"The project has become so controversial that I thought withdrawing was the best thing to do," Gibson said Monday. "I understand that Mary Farr has a petition with 800 to 1000 signatures against taking her property. People seem to be opposed to the project. The county councilmen signed that letter. I thought this would be a project that everyone would favor, but it's such a mess that I decided to get out."

The Park Department recently received approval of a \$150,000 federal grant for the project; it was to be matched with \$130,000 of local money.

The Park Board originally approved a facility composed of Gibson's 100 acres and another 40 acres belonging to Mrs. Farr and her children. Gibson had agreed to sell his land to the county at a below-market-value price of \$55,000. But Farr has never wanted to sell her property.

Since the Farr property contains the lake that is a vital part of the park, and since there were early indications she was opposed to selling her land, in December the Park Board employed a special attorney, James McDonald, to represent the board in acquiring land for the park. Shortly thereafter, McDonald wrote to Mrs. Farr to arrange a meeting and mentioned the possibility of condemnation in the letter.

At both the May and June Park Board meetings, owners of the lake property were present and expressed their unwillingness to sell. Mrs. Farr went so far as to identify an alternate park site within a mile of her property. Her suggested alternate location was a 175-acre tract that is for sale for \$450 per acre.

In early June, all seven county councilmen signed a letter to the park department expressing their opposition to condemnation as a means of acquiring property for the park. The councilmen, early in 1979, approved an appropriation of \$130,000 from a non-reverting park fund for the project, which was the local matching share.

Monday morning Max Miller, park board president, said that he was not up on recent park developments, although he implied that perhaps he had heard some mention of Gibson's decision to remove his property from consideration. "I don't know if it would make much difference," Miller said.

In response to a question about whether the park department would attempt to acquire Gibson's land through condemnation, Miller said it would be up to the board to decide, but that there was no difference between the Gibson property and the Farr property that he could see.

Gibson said he has not given any thought to what he would do if the county tried to condemn his land. "It's hard to say what I would do. I haven't thought about it. It's such a mess," he said.

Miller said he has no plans to call a special Park Board meeting. The next regular session is scheduled for July 23.

Keith Ruble, park department superintendent, who said he has had no official word of any change of plans, said last week that the State Division of Outdoor Recreation has told him (and is sending a written confirmation) that any change of park sites would necessitate a new grant application.

"There's a complex rating system, and

we'd have to start again and be ranked against other state projects," Ruble said. "I will write a comparison, however, of the two park locations. The Coal Bluff property has potential but we would have a long way to go to make it comparable to the Fontanet site."

The Park Department has been searching for a park site in the northern part of the county for several years.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

New Vigo park plan is stalled

Sp AUG 4 1979

Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)

The Vigo County Park Board approved a proposed 1980 budget of almost \$240,000 at its regular meeting last week but postponed any decision on whether to continue with plans for a northeast park, because only a bare quorum was present.

The board has been planning to develop a park in Fontanet composed of 100 acres belonging to Max Gibson and 40 acres belonging to Mrs. Mary Farr and her children. It received approval of \$150,000 federal grant for this purpose, which was to be matched with \$130,000 of local funds.

Originally Gibson offered to sell his property to the Park Department at a below-market-value cost. The Farris, however, have opposed selling their property and have indicated they will fight any attempt at condemnation. Lately county councilmen have also expressed their opposition to the

use of eminent domain to acquire the Farr property.

Because the matter has become so controversial, Gibson has withdrawn his offer to sell land for the park. While this was reported in The Spectator July 14, it was only at last week's meeting that park officials admitted they had received notification of this. Chet Burkeyby, assistant park superintendent, said Gibson had telephoned him and withdrawn his offer.

Board members at last week's meeting briefly discussed the situation and were told by Keith Ruble, superintendent, that federal funds could not be transferred from one park site to another. "If we change locations, we will have to go through a reassessment to determine the points," Ruble said. He explained that funds are allocated to projects based on a point count

system.

In an informal discussion among park officials following the meeting, two board members suggested the board consider acquiring Forest Park for a north facility. "It would be ideal. The location is good, it has water, it's 300 acres. It would make a perfect part for the county," one said.

The Park Board is composed of six members and although two, Max Miller and Susan McCarthy, are ex-officio, they vote. Other members are Bill Thompson, John Etling, Ruel Burns, Sr. and Burch Harlan. Burns and Thompson have the best attendance records for 1979 -- neither has missed a meeting. Etling, Miller and Harlan each has missed two of the seven meetings held this year and McCarthy has missed three, according to board minutes.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Parks and Recreation (Vigo Co.)

Northeast park T OCT 13 1979 site considered

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department, for the third time in the past nine years, is considering a possible site for a multipurpose park in the northeast part of the county.

Park and Recreation Superintendent Keith Ruble said the park department is now considering a 140-acre site in the Fontanet area as a possibility.

Earlier efforts to acquire land near Fontanet for a new county park have come to naught, though such a facility has been ranked as a top priority item on the park department's "want and need" list for the past several years.

The acreage now being offered is owned by two persons, Ruble said.

First it will be necessary to take deep borings to determine the availability of water for a lake, Ruble explained.

"If those results aren't favorable, then we'll drop the idea of that site," Ruble said.

A multipurpose park requires water for such activities as boating, fishing and swimming, and if a northeast park is ever to be established, it should have those things, Ruble believes. When a group of Fontanet residents met to discuss the new site, Park Board President Max G. Miller and Assistant Park Superintendent Chet Burkeybyle attended the session.

The county park board is expected to discuss the matter at the next regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 22.

Ruble has suggested that the park board obtain options on the two pieces of property while soil type studies are

being made. The area had two shaft mines, Minshall and Plymouth, at one time, Ruble noted.

Several previous attempts to acquire park sites had been undertaken by the park board. One involved the 17-acre Holloway's Grove in Nevins Township, site of the annual Bean Dinner, a Vigo County tradition.

The park department and the Fontanet Bean Dinner Association failed to come to terms on a lease agreement in 1977 that would have turned over the site to the county park system for operation and maintenance.

The county park department had considered the terms of the lease "too restrictive."

In addition, the park department had considered two sites in Otter Creek Township, Miller said.

Plans to acquire another site in Nevins Township, consisting of about 100 acres owned by Max Gibson (on which the old DuPont powder mill was located) and 60 acres containing lake property owned by Mary Farr and her family, were scrapped several months ago.

Gibson withdrew his offer to sell his 100 acres at a below-market price of \$55,000, and Mrs. Farr indicated she did not wish to sell her property and would fight any condemnation proceedings.

Mrs. Farr had suggested an alternate site of 175 acres in nearby Coal Bluff.

About \$300,000 had been earmarked for a new northeast county park, with about half the funding from a federal grant and half from the park department's non-reverting capital fund.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE